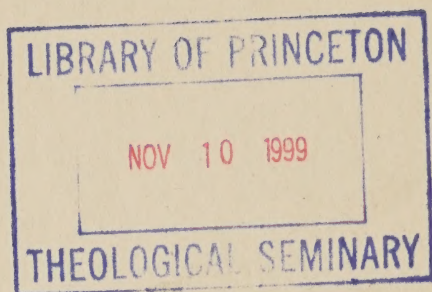


A HISTORY
OF
WITTENBERG
COLLEGE
(1845-1945)

HAROLD H. LENTZ



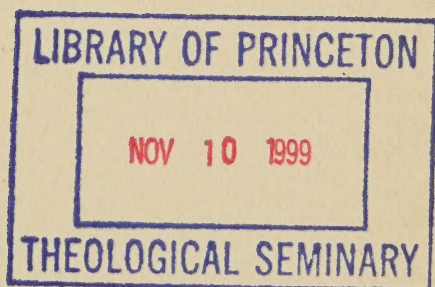
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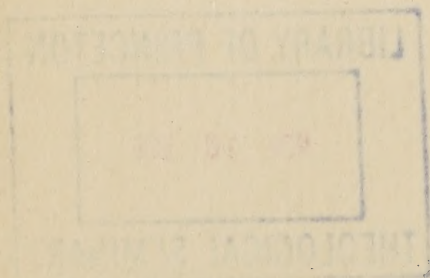
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A HISTORY
OF
WITTENBERG COLLEGE
(1845-1945)

By
HAROLD H. LENTZ, *Ph.D.*

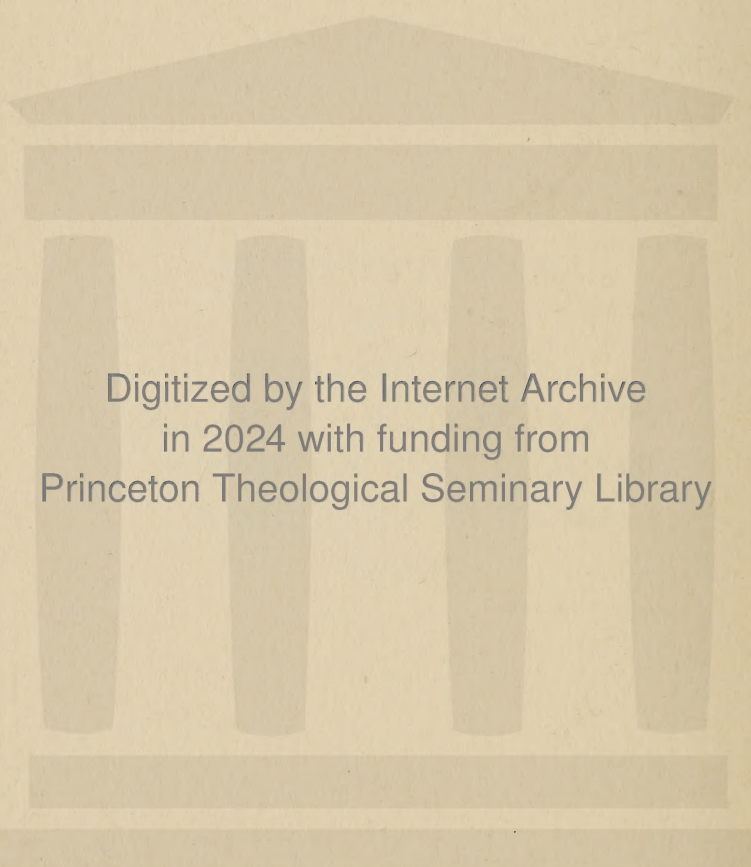


THE WITTENBERG PRESS
1946



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TO A LOYAL FACULTY
WHO
ACROSS THE YEARS
HAVE MADE NOBLE SACRIFICES
IN ORDER THAT WITTENBERG
MIGHT BE WHAT SHE IS
TODAY



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"Having light, we pass it on to others."

FOREWORD

Attempting to compress one hundred years of history into the few pages of this book has made necessary the elimination of much worthwhile material. It is with deep regret that the author has found so little space for the description of some of the activities briefly depicted herein. A great company of individuals, to whom pages would gladly have been devoted, could not even be mentioned. Among those who thus remain anonymous are board members, professors, students and friends, whose cooperative efforts have aided in making Wittenberg what she is today. The strong desire to trace certain theological developments at Wittenberg, especially in connection with Hamma Divinity School, was satisfactorily suppressed in view of the knowledge that Professor Willard Allbeck was to produce a volume covering that subject.

In the production of this history many individuals have cooperated generously. The thanks of the author are hereby extended to the staff of Zimmerman Library, who were generous in supplying material and in extending library privileges; to such kind friends as Mrs. S. G. Dornblaser, the Reverend Frank Secrist, and Dean C. G. Shatzer, who furnished helpful information; to Professors B. H. Pershing, E. E. Flack, G. P. Voigt and Georgia MacPherson, who read major portions of this history in manuscript form; to Miss Ellen Campbell for her valuable counsel in regard to punctuation and sentence structure; and most of all to President Rees Edgar Tulloss who cooperated wholeheartedly from the very beginning, bending every effort to place all helpful means at my disposal, and who aided materially in the opening chapters of this volume.

PART I

VISIONS AND DREAMS

Chapter I

That Men May Train for the Ministry

The story of Wittenberg is the story of America during the most interesting century of our nation's existence. The college was born on the American frontier. Its first board of directors was chosen before our country had a single telegraph line, when railroads ran no farther west than Buffalo, N. Y. Henry Clay and Daniel Webster were influencing American political life. The abolition of slavery was yet two decades in the future. Men still lived who had known and worked with George Washington. Virginia contained one-fifth of the whole population of this country. Two stage coaches bore all the travel between New York and Boston.

Wittenberg came into existence as the result of great sacrifice on the part of a rugged people who were typical of American stock in those pioneer days. Many gave their best years to the welfare of the institution.

As America grew, Wittenberg grew. Its student body increased, buildings were erected, and endowment funds

accumulated. The library slowly expanded. Five wars shook America and the college felt their shock. Depressions came and went. Through it all the school forged ahead. At the close of one hundred years its history is the story of struggle, sacrifice, hard-earned progress and service rendered. These factors have identified it with the American scene and spirit.

The world owes much to its dreamers. Were it not for them we would ever be mired in the clay of yesterday's commonplace. No progress which keeps us up to date is possible except as someone looks ahead into tomorrow's possibilities and then takes what is at hand to bring them to reality.

It required a dreamer to take any serious thought of a Lutheran institution of higher learning in Ohio in the third decade of the Nineteenth Century. America at that time was still confronted with a great frontier. A rough, uncultivated, untamed expanse, it stretched from Ohio many hundreds of miles into the "Golden West." Families residing in this area were practical minded, for only the pragmatic souls, possessed of physical hardihood, could accept the challenge of the pioneer life. Even in families where financial means could have been provided, there were few youth who cared to take the time from practical pursuits to secure an education.

Prior to 1820, colleges and universities were to be found in only a few places in the United States west of the Alleghenies. The years 1820 to 1860 were prolific in the establishment of colleges. For a time it was the "fashionable" thing for denominations and communities to boast of an academic institution of their own. Among these the mortality rate was very high. Of the nine colleges and universities in Ohio established prior to 1842, all were small and struggling when the birth of Wittenberg took place. As late as 1859, we are told, "Ohio's 22 colleges and universities had

but 3,873 students, of which 2,105 were in the preparatory departments. Oberlin, with 181 students in its college department, was the largest.”¹ The difficulties involved in creating a Lutheran college or seminary were tremendous. Not the least obstacle was the small number of Lutherans in the territory, who were widely scattered throughout the state and divided by synodical and language barriers.

But still among these sturdy Lutheran pioneers were a number who glimpsed visions of what the church could do in the educational realm. They were goaded, as churchmen, by a pressing need for schools of higher learning. They did not want their children reared in godless communities. Nor did they care to spend their days among people who had no church to provide spiritual leadership. The uplift of Sunday worship was on their minds. The religious hymns of their childhood echoed as rich melodies within their hearts. They yearned for church steeples to point their thoughts toward God, and desired to have the presence of ministers of the Gospel. But ministers, according to the Lutheran tradition, had to be trained in college and seminary. To provide such institutions these hardy souls were willing to share their meager portion.

Already in 1830 the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio and Other States had inaugurated a seminary in Canton, Ohio, moving it a year later to Columbus, Ohio. At this school all instruction was in the German language, a policy which continued to be debated within the synod. Some of the ministers preached in English and desired to have seminary training presented in English. In 1836 the English-speaking pastors branched off from their more Germanic brethren to form the English Lutheran Synod of Ohio. Even though the new group continued to cooperate with the mother synod and

1. Roseboom and Weisenburger, *History of Ohio*, p. 429.

considered itself only an English-speaking branch, this action was a portent of what was to come. By 1840 the advocates of English were ready to separate themselves entirely from the main group, and that year their Synod announced its independence. For two years more they continued to give financial support to the German seminary in Columbus, but they repeatedly agitated for the establishment of an English professorship. In 1842 a final plea was made. But again the answer came back, as always, that the seminary would continue to employ the German language exclusively.¹

When this uncompromising reply was received, the English Lutheran Synod of Ohio decided that the time had come for the establishment of an English Lutheran college and seminary in Ohio. The need had become so visible that in spite of the obstacles in the way there was a will to undertake the project. After much debate, therefore, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

*"Resolved, That in humble reliance upon the Lord Jesus Christ, and alone for His glory and honor, we, now in Synod assembled, do ordain and establish a Literary-Theological institution."*²

Proof of their determination was the fifteen hundred dollars pledged by the delegates themselves to start the movement. That was a substantial sum of money in those days. Behind the gift lay their faith in America and their willingness to identify themselves completely with the American scene by the full use of the English language. Wittenberg came into being, then, as an American institution, founded and supported by those who were determined to work with the builders of a new nation on the common basis of the English language.

Having taken the decisive step, the next thing for the

1. *"alles theologischen Lehrvor trage einzig und allein nur durch das Mittel der deutschen Sprache zu geben sind."* See *Abriss der Geschichte des evangelische-lutherischen Synode von Ohio u.a.Staaten*, von C. Spielmann, p. 125.

2. See minutes of English Lutheran Synod of Ohio, 1842, p. 9.

Synod to do was to appoint a group of men who would effect an organization and assume the responsibilities of founding the institution. The first board of directors, chosen for this purpose, consisted of six ministers and six laymen.¹ These men elected the following pastors to office: William G. Keil, president; John Hamilton, secretary; John B. Reck, treasurer. Before departing for their homes the Board members decided to meet in Wooster in June of 1843 to consider proposals made by the communities seeking to have the new institution locate in their midst.

Traveling on horseback, along many miles of dirt roads and woodland paths, the members of the board reassembled in Wooster. Two proposals awaited their consideration. Wooster itself offered the inducement of ground valued at \$1,200.00 and subscriptions to the amount of \$5,000.00.² Lutherans of Canton were eager to welcome the institution to their city but had less to offer in the way of financial support. The Board of Trustees of the Canton Male Seminary promised \$2,000.00 in cash and, for three years, the use of two rooms in a building occupied by their seminary.³

Three important decisions marked this Wooster meeting of the Board. First, it was voted to accept the offer of the citizens of Wooster and to locate the institution in that com-

1. The first board of directors of Wittenberg College consisted of the following who were elected by the English Synod of Ohio in 1842. Clerical members: Charles C. Guenther, John Hamilton, William G. Keil, George Leiter, John Benjamin Reck, and Francis J. Ruth. Lay members: John A. Lawrence, Jacob Roller, Elias Smith, Judge David Tullis, George Welty, and Dr. O. Ballard, M. D.

The ordained ministers present at the synodical meeting were: W. G. Keil, J. B. Reck, J. H. Hoffman, G. Leiter, S. Ritz, J. Hamilton, J. Seidle, C. C. Guenther, E. Rathbun, A. Kuhn, J. Surface, W. J. Sloan, J. B. Hoffman, R. D. Emmerson, H. Bishop, J. G. Ellinger.

Licentiates were: P. P. Lane, G. Sill, J. Livengood, L. C. Barnes, G. W. Shaeffer, G. Wolf, J. Wolf, J. Rollison, W. A. Wadsworth, J. G. Harris, A. H. Myers, J. Dixon and two others, Baker and Thumma, whose initials are not recorded.

Lay delegates were: Judge D. Tullis, J. Hickson, Judge J. Roller, P. Culler, E. Smith, H. Keefer, Dr. J. Dellenbaugh, W. Feighner, W. Imhoff, J. Smith, E. Uhl, J. Koonz, J. Dickson, F. Ault, Capt. J. Miller, J. Patterson, J. Berry, J. Horn.

According to this record, Rev. John Stauch was not present. If Rev. F. J. Ruth arrived later in the session the minutes do not indicate it.

2. See First Journal of Minutes of Wittenberg Board of Directors, p. 3. This valuable document is deposited in the archives of Wittenberg College.

3. First Journal of Minutes of Wittenberg Board, pp. 2, 3.

munity.¹ Secondly, the erection of a three-story building, thirty-six by fifty feet, was decided upon. A committee was appointed to carry out the details of erection. Thirdly, and of far-reaching importance, it was voted to call the Reverend Ezra Keller of Hagerstown, Maryland, as the first theological professor. The members could hardly have foreseen how much this man was to mean to the new institution; but, aware of his talents, they did not hesitate to seek him. A second professor, for the college department, was to be chosen later. These two men were to constitute the faculty at the opening of the school. It was agreed that the Reverend Mr. Keller should be paid \$400.00 for the first year, plus \$400.00 to be provided by two congregations he would serve.

At the time of his call to the embryo seminary, Ezra Keller had just passed his thirty-first birthday. Though young in years, he was already matured by experience. Born near Middletown, Maryland, on May 12, 1812, the third son in a family of five sons and one daughter, Keller's youth was spent on the farm. His grandfather and his mother wielded considerable influence over him in his spiritual development, although his father at that time lacked any interest in religion. Ezra was deeply impressed by a very devout farm hand who lived with the family, William Lingenfelter. As a result of this man's influence, Keller became so absorbed in religion that he decided, in his seventeenth year, to become a minister. Relatives persuaded his parents that the long period of education required for such a step was a waste of time. To the boy's dismay they induced his mother and father to oppose his decision. Accordingly, the youth left home and took up residence for four months with a Lutheran clergyman, the Reverend Abraham Reck, who had strengthened his convictions

1. Canton citizens did not acquiesce in this decision, stating that they believed their proposals were not fully understood. When the English Lutheran Synod met in Canton in October, 1843, the location of the school was argued at length in a lively session. After both sides had been heard, Synod confirmed the action of the Board in locating at Wooster.

to enter the ministry. This pastor stirred the religious impulse of many young men in the Middletown Valley of Maryland. His fervor induced a number of youths to enter the ministry, including two of Ezra Keller's friends, David Bittle and Lewis Routzahn. Pastor Reck had taken an active part in the establishment of the Gettysburg Theological Seminary in 1826 and of the Gettysburg Gymnasium, which later became Pennsylvania College and still later, Gettysburg College.

At the age of eighteen Keller entered the preparatory department of Gettysburg Gymnasium. In order to get to Gettysburg he traveled the whole distance on foot. Upon arrival, it is said, he had fifty cents in cash, a scanty supply of clothing and a few books. This was hardly enough to assure him that he could carry out the venture upon which he was embarking. Securing an education, then as now, was an expensive experience. Yet here was a lad just turned eighteen—homeless, penniless—willing to walk to college and to make the attempt to support himself while he studied for the next six years. It was all done for the purpose of making an unselfish contribution to the uplift of humanity. In the end courage and persistence won. In spite of hardships, Keller managed to give a good account of himself during the next half-dozen years of schooling.

Among his classmates in college were two young men who, like himself, were later to become college presidents: David Bittle at Roanoke College in Virginia, and Theophilus Stork at Newberry College, South Carolina. Later they were joined by Samuel Sprecher who was to become the second president of Wittenberg.

Upon advancing to the Seminary, Keller came under the influence of Professor Samuel Schmucker, a man of prodigious energy and scholarly attainment. Schmucker received his education in America, at the Universities of Pennsylvania and

Princeton. It may well have been the impress of this professor which led Keller later to advocate a Lutheran ministry trained in America as better fitted for service in our nation.

Keller's father, who had opposed Ezra's deep desire to become a minister, remained so adamant in his stand that when, in 1836, Ezra was ordained to the Lutheran ministry, the father disowned his son. Happily, however, ten years later a reconciliation was effected. The father then took pride in the service which his son was rendering to the church and to its educational interests.

As he neared the end of his seminary training, Ezra Keller was asked by the Pennsylvania Synod to make a survey for them of spiritual conditions in some of the states to the west. The Synod desired to learn, through one of its own representatives, the actual religious needs in Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri. Such a journey was not pleasant to anticipate in those days. Keller was not large of stature or physically strong. The young seminarian hesitated in accepting the responsibility of the survey, but finally decided that he would do so, following the completion of his education. In September of 1836 he set out on a meandering course which, during the next six months, led him over a great section of the western country.

In his report to Synod he stated: "I traveled at a moderate computation, three thousand miles; preached eighty sermons and lectured frequently; baptized twenty-four; confirmed one; administered the Lord's Supper to thirty communicants; collected for missionary purposes, \$38.56. The results of this mission, which cost me so much toil and anxiety of mind, eternity alone can fully unfold. My earnest prayer has always been, that my labors may be useful to those to whom I was sent to minister."

As a result of these travels he came to know the West and

many of the Lutheran leaders in that part of the nation. Could unseen forces have been grooming him for events which lay hidden in the future?

At the time he received the call to Wittenberg, Keller was most happily situated in a prospering congregation in Hagerstown, Maryland. He was a strong preacher, beloved of the people in his large congregation. A two-fold explanation is given for the source of his pulpit power. First, he preached from the Scriptures in language which all could understand, and applied to the needs of the people. Secondly, his soul was on fire with love for Christ and his fellowmen.

Selfish considerations certainly would have led him to decline the invitation to leave Hagerstown in order to help establish a seminary in Ohio. Yet there were certain inclinations which made the professorship appealing to him. In the midst of this dilemma he hesitated for several months, trying to reach a decision through prayerful consideration. When the Board met again, between the sessions of Synod, in Wooster in October of 1843, no reply had been forthcoming from Keller. The Board therefore adjourned its meeting until February of 1844, after instructing the secretary to write again to Hagerstown in an attempt to secure a favorable answer.

Keller was present at the February, 1844, meeting of the Board, held in the Court House in Wooster. He had decided to visit the field and discuss the proposed institution with the Board members in person. His actions were such as to encourage all concerned, but he was still unable to arrive at a definite conclusion. There is no doubt that he was undergoing real anguish of spirit as he wrestled with the difficult problem.

The uncertainty of Keller's reply did not hinder the Board from pursuing vigorously the establishment of the institution. At this meeting many decisions of importance were made. A petition was prepared, asking the state legislature

to grant a charter to the board. A committee to draft a constitution was appointed. If either, or both, of the two men called to be professors should see fit to decline, the secretary was delegated authority to secure a teacher for the classical department for six months. This would assure the opening of the school on the date set, which was June 1, 1844. A call to the professorship in the collegiate department was issued to the Reverend W. H. Smith, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was to receive an annual salary of \$700.00.

Tuition rates were agreed upon. For the summer season those enrolled in the English branches only were to pay six dollars, while the rate for those taking both English and the classics was established at eight dollars. During the winter session the two groups were to pay nine dollars and twelve dollars, respectively.

Continuing their earnest efforts to open the institution in June, the Board appointed a committee to secure bids on a proposed college structure, to be erected on a selected site in the northern section of Wooster. Another action taken at that time, concerning the administration of internal affairs of the institution, has stood for one hundred years. It was decided that a Prudential Committee should be established, with power to transact all necessary business between the sessions of the Board, to audit and approve all bills paid, to meet situations arising from time to time in the administration of the institution. This committee was to make a full report to the Board at the next regular session. It was agreed that the first Prudential Committee should consist of the two professors who were to be employed—one for the college, the other for the seminary—and three other persons. The unique thing about this Prudential Committee has been the faculty representation. Members of the teaching staff have predominated in the appointments to this important committee. Wittenberg stands



PRESIDENT EZRA KELLER, D.D. 1845-1848

almost alone among colleges and universities in placing in the hands of the faculty a large share of the actual administration of the institution.

A second charter was issued by the state on March 11, 1845. This is now accepted as the founding date of the institution, even though the college had been granted a charter previously, and a summer session was held in 1944. The charter issued in 1845 was the first to refer to the institution by the name of Wittenberg College, and to specify Springfield as the location.

On March 23, in Hagerstown, Maryland, Ezra Keller wrote to the secretary of the College Board: "I have, therefore, after much fervent prayer, much deep reflection, much careful consultation with the wisest advisors within my reach, with great fear and trembling, and I trust in sincerity and the fear of God—resolved to accept the position offered me by your Board, and I hereby signify the same to them. As I have thus given up a large and delightful field of usefulness and enjoyment, I shall endeavor to be entirely devoted to the interests of your infant Seminary of learning; and I trust I shall have the hearty and efficient cooperation of those who have invited me into this field.

"I trust I shall have an interest in your prayer, that I may be sustained in the severe trial of separation from my beloved flock. The trial will be very great. I am already much enfeebled in consequence of anxious cares by day and dreams by night. I trust this sacrifice will redound to the glory of God. For his glory alone it has been made."¹

Those were momentous words in Wittenberg's history. They brought to the school a character who lived sacrificially,

1. Diehl, *Biography of Ezra Keller*, p. 212.

whose ability to plan and create made him the man for that particular office. Ezra Keller was a leader of men, a strong spirit, a talented preacher and teacher. A happier choice of professor could hardly have been made. And he was coming to Wittenberg.

Chapter II

Early Blueprints

In spite of the Board's bold action and the acceptance by Ezra Keller of his call to the professorship, the institution was still in the planning stage—a dream in the minds of loyal and consecrated people. The next few months were to make it evident that much remained to be done before the institution could become a reality with any assurance of permanency.

When the Board met in April, 1844, it heard the favorable reply of Ezra Keller. But it also faced the fact that funds were limited and no satisfactory inducement could be held out to anyone to teach in the proposed school. The attempt to found a college was being made while poverty stalked every move. The Reverend W. H. Smith, after a conditional acceptance of the chair of classical studies, stated that ill health forced him to decline. The secretary reported that in accordance with previous Board action he had thereupon secured Mr. F. K. Heisley, a young man from Baltimore who had been "highly recommended by Reverend B. Kurtz, D. D",¹ to serve for a six-months period. The committee on erection of a building could report no progress. In fact, it advised the Board not to build at that time. The committee felt that subscriptions received in Wooster more than a year previously might not be collectable, and deemed it wise, fur-

1. First Journal of Wittenberg Board Minutes, p. 12.

thermore, not to build until the charter had been received and accepted. They appeared to be questioning the decision to locate the school in Wooster and gave the first hint that another community might yet be the choice.

The Board adjourned until May 29. When the members reassembled on that date they found that Professor Keller had been on the scene since the 15th of the month. Having found four men on the grounds, awaiting theological instruction, he had launched their course of study on May 17. These, then, were the first four students of the institution, and because of that distinction their names should be repeated here. Isaac Culler, David Earhart, David Harbaugh, and A. R. Howbert made up the first roll of the institution. Doctor B. F. Prince, in an unpublished history of Wittenberg's first seventy-five years, relates that "Mr. Howbert and Mr. Harbaugh followed Professor Keller to Springfield, where they spent several years under his instruction. Three of the four students gave years of service to the work of the ministry, and all went through life with honor to themselves and to the calling they had entered."

A rather auspicious beginning was made by the classical department on June 3, 1844, when it opened with an enrollment of twenty-four men under the instruction of Mr. Heisley. This raised to twenty-eight the total enrollment of Wittenberg in the first semester of its existence.

Meanwhile new arguments for changing the location of the school began to materialize. The Synod of the West, with congregations in Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois, indicated a desire to unite with the English Lutheran Synod of Ohio in the establishment and support of a school to serve the entire Mid-West. Committees from the two synods actually met in Cincinnati in June of 1844 to discuss the possibility of a joint undertaking. In the end the Ohio men decided not to wait for their brethren farther west, who would not be ready for a

considerable time to take any definite action.

At the meeting of the English Lutheran Synod of Ohio, held in September of 1844, it was recognized that the Lutherans of Ohio were more numerous in counties farther south. To a considerable degree Lutheran emigrants from the East had settled in a chain of counties including Perry, Fairfield, Pickaway, Montgomery and Butler. There was talk of forming in this district a new Synod, to which some of the members of the English Lutheran Synod of Ohio would doubtless transfer their membership.¹ Ezra Keller had concluded that Wooster was not centrally located in regard to a Lutheran constituency and secured the Board's approval to look for a site elsewhere. When he presented the matter to Synod in September, 1844, that body endorsed unanimously the decision to change the location.

The members of the English Lutheran Synod of Ohio did not intend to keep the school as a project restricted to their own synod. Support of other Lutheran groups not only was welcome, but sought. The Synod elected Keller its representative to the meeting of the Synod of the West, in Fort Wayne, in the fall of 1844, to secure from that body whatever amount of cooperation was possible. This was the Synod which had previously shown an interest in the project. Before going to Fort Wayne, Keller revisited Springfield and Xenia, two communities which had made a favorable impression on him as possible locations for the institution. Next he visited Dayton and then set out on horseback for Fort Wayne, one hundred twenty miles away. He "found the road through the Black Swamp, northward of St. Mary's exceedingly bad, and the country quite a wilderness."²

In Fort Wayne Keller experienced difficulty in securing

1. This synod was formed on October 16, 1844, in Xenia, Ohio, with the name of The Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Miami. Twelve delegates signed the roll. The next year the Synod listed 32 congregations with 1723 communicants.

2. Diehl, *op. cit.*, pp. 258, 259.

the cooperation of the brethren in the establishment of the proposed college and seminary. However, after voting against taking such action, they reconsidered, voted favorably, and appointed three commissioners to work out an agreement with the Synod of Ohio. Nothing came of this action, however. As his opposition in the Synod of the West sprang from those ministers who had been trained in the Fatherland, Keller was led to conclude: "I am every day becoming more convinced of the necessity of raising up an American ministry to spiritualize the millions of Germans who are seeking a home in our happy land. Those who are educated in Germany are not qualified for the work, and cannot be persuaded to lay aside their foreign prejudices, and modes of thought and action."¹

Of unusual significance was the proposal of Professor Keller at this time that all Lutherans in the territory should unite in the support of the Columbus seminary of the German Joint Synod and that an English Department be created in that seminary. Then Wittenberg would proceed as a college only. Had such a proposal been accepted, there would probably have been no Lutheran college established in connection with the seminary in Columbus, as was done in 1850. The plan of Ezra Keller was to have one seminary for all Lutherans, in Columbus, and one college as a united endeavor wherever the new location of Wittenberg might be.

Had his proposal been accepted, what a different story might have been written of the Lutheran educational movement in Ohio! The writer has heard the hope expressed that when the present-day divisions of Lutherans in America are dissolved, the two seminaries and colleges, now located in Columbus and Springfield, may be merged, resulting in a strong Lutheran seminary in one community and a strong Lutheran college in the other. Here was the opportunity, at

1. *Ibid.*, p. 261.

the beginning, for just such an arrangement. It would have resulted in much closer cooperation of Ohio Lutherans and a better understanding among all as a consequence.

Keller took his plan of having all Lutherans support the Columbus seminary and the proposed college to the meeting of the German Joint Synod at Zanesville. There his hopes were quickly blasted. That Synod unwaveringly determined that the German language alone should be used in its seminary. Such a decision necessarily eliminated any possibility of cooperation with the English-speaking pastors and people whom Keller represented. Thus was wrecked a far-sighted plan which would have borne much good fruit in the ensuing years.

Accepting this rejection with characteristic fortitude, Keller began to canvass the state in a final search for a favorable site for the institution that was now largely under his leadership. In this capacity he visited Cincinnati, Dayton, Xenia and Springfield. Most of the arduous trip was made on horseback, although he rode from Dayton to Cincinnati in a packet boat on the Miami Canal. Moved by the spirit of the day, many communities gave consideration to the possibility of a college and seminary in their midst. Lutherans in the various cities added their weight to such considerations. There was no doubt that in the next few months some communities would offer inducements for the establishment of the school in their locality.

Shortly after returning from this journey Keller again traveled over the state. This time it was in compliance with the request of the Board of Directors that he spend a part of the summer soliciting donations and subscriptions for the endowment of a theological professorship. He was to collect books and money, also, for the institution's library. The early pages of Wittenberg's history could appropriately be written in red. They tell of sacrifices on the part of individuals whose

zeal was such that they would give life itself to see the school established on a firm basis. Here was the man who gave up a most pleasant work in order to identify himself with all the risks attending an educational venture. It became his duty to accumulate the library, find a location for the school, interest congregations in its welfare, secure financial aid from any who could be interested. He had to absent himself from his family for weeks at a time while he rode great distances on horseback in all kinds of weather. The endowment of the chair which he occupied he had to secure with his own initiative and energy. No wonder that he made in his journal such entries as the following: "Today, I feel exceedingly dejected and lonely. The absence of my family, my bodily indisposition, the obstacles which must be encountered. . . . all conspire to weigh down my spirit. Yesterday, after preaching in a small schoolhouse . . . the flesh whispered in my ear, 'It would have been better to have remained in your pleasant charge in Maryland.' The Lord grant me more of the mind that was in Christ—a spirit of self-denial, of meekness, fortitude, and contentment under trials and privations. During the last several nights I enjoyed but little refreshing repose. I arose several times to engage in prayer."¹

At another time he wrote: "I am busily engaged soliciting subscriptions for the institution. Sometimes I feel quite discouraged. The precariousness of such an enterprise, the fear that the expectations of our people will not be realized, the illiberality of many of the wealthy, and the want of unanimity and interest in some of our ministerial brethren, tend to discourage me. But when I think of the importance of the work, the promise of God's aid, and the success which has crowned similar efforts elsewhere, I take courage."²

Again he wrote: "During the first week of the new year,

1. Diehl, *op. cit.*, pp. 254, 255.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 271.

I preached eight times, and thrice on the following Sabbath. This labor proved too severe for my feeble body, and I have been suffering, as a consequence. I have again and again resolved to perform less labor, but just as often broken my resolutions. 'There is so much to be done—the time is short—the work is so difficult'—these are the arguments which urge me on in my imprudent zeal."¹

His energetic devotion did bear fruit, as the following entries in his diary attest: "July 14. I presented the claims of the institution to the congregations at Canal Dover and Strausburg. I obtained subscriptions amounting to upward of five hundred dollars. Besides this subscription, I obtained twenty-four dollars and eight volumes for the theological library. The first subscription I received was seventy-five dollars from Father Helwig. The first books were D'Aubigne's 'History of the Reformation,' presented by Doctor Slingluff. I have reason to be grateful for the token of favor which God has given me at the outset of this enterprise."² From the first set of books, here mentioned, the library has grown until it is now approaching 75,000 volumes. How the seed, so faithfully planted by Ezra Keller, has increased!

On July 30 Keller wrote: "Since the last entry in my journal, I have been busily engaged in my labors. God has given me some measure of success. I have collected, on an average, one hundred dollars per day . . . My most liberal subscriptions come from those, who, in this world's goods, are poor or in moderate circumstances."³ Wittenberg had to wait many decades before the first of the large gifts came to the school.

In some places Keller was sorely disappointed by the poor response of the people to his appeal. Of other places he could

1. *Ibid.*, p. 275.

2. *Ibid.*, pp. 246, 247.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 247.

write as he did of Washingtonville and of Boliver: "Here my heart was cheered by the liberality of these good people. The subscriptions of the two congregations amounted to upwards of six hundred dollars."¹

A meeting of the Board was called for February 14, 1845, in Springfield.² At that time the offers of various communities were to be considered and a choice of location for the institution to be made. When the Board convened, it sent a new petition to the state legislature, asking for a revised charter in place of the one previously issued, to which a number of objections had been raised. In connection with this charter, an item of considerable interest was discussed, namely, the selection of a name for the institution.

Even non-Lutherans are aware that the name of Wittenberg was borrowed from the university in Germany where Martin Luther taught in the sixteenth century. There the monk, whose love of truth led him to strike at abuse and error within the church, carried out those reforming activities which ultimately led to the establishment of Protestantism. Furthermore, it was for many years one of the strongest universities in the world. The name of Wittenberg is a proud one in Lutheran history. All Protestantism honors it. Little wonder that in choosing a name for the college and seminary in Ohio, the founding fathers should select the time-honored name of Wittenberg.

Yet for the actual facts surrounding this choice, we must rely upon tradition. When a charter had been sought for the

1. *Ibid.*, p. 250.

2. In connection with this meeting a somewhat amusing item is found in the minutes. It deals with a letter "from our worthy Brother S.----- in which he says 'he expects there would not be a quorum present and therefore he thinks his coming would be of no use.' Your committee regrets very much that our Brother S.----- should make such an excuse, as no doubt our worthy Brother in writing this excuse must have forgotten that by doing our duty and attending appointed meetings we are never useless but always beneficial to those who are present, therefore your committee recommends that Brother S.----- be not excused for his non-attendance." See First Volume of Board Minutes, p. 21. From the comfort of 1945 one can look back with sympathy upon this poor brother who had no stomach for riding on horseback for several days, through the slush and snow of February, to attend a meeting where a quorum might not even be present. But such an attitude drew no sympathy in those days.

location of the institution at Wooster, the name used was Lutheran Theological and Collegiate Institute. That was in February of the year 1844. One year later, on February 14, 1845, when a second request for a charter was forwarded to the Legislature, the name of the school was designated as Wittenberg College. According to tradition the name adopted was proposed by the Reverend J. H. Hoffman. He presented the name, it is said, at the meeting of February 14, 1845, at which time the Board voted to accept his suggestion. At the meeting of the Board in June of the same year, a request was received for a change of name to Manual Labor Institution.¹ The proposal was quickly voted down and from that date onward, without thought of change, the college has proudly borne the name of its predecessor of Reformation fame. As Wittenberg in Germany had stood for world religious leadership and educational opportunities, so Wittenberg in the New World was to provide men trained for the holy office of the ministry, who at home and abroad would radiate the light of their faith. Its college course would enroll men who would make priceless contributions in every field of human endeavor. Its graduates would bear the stamp not only of worthwhile academic training, but of an education based upon Christian ideals of service and character.

This same Board meeting of February, 1845, found two offers at hand for the location of the school. One was from the City of Springfield, the other from Xenia, about fifteen miles to the south. Springfield offered \$4,667.00 in cash and materials, and the choice of two locations.² The first was an eight acre plot of ground east of the village, running between the National Road and the Lagonda Road. This is the site upon which the city standpipe was erected at a later date. It is a spot which alumni of recent decades will readily recall as being far less desirable than the present location of the college.

1. First Volume of Board Minutes, p. 21.

2. *Ibid.*, pp. 22 ff.

The other tract consisted of eighteen acres on the site of the present campus. Seventeen of these acres were owned by a cemetery association willing to transfer the land to the college.¹

Xenia offered cash in the amount of \$4,281.00, in addition to a choice of five plots of ground.² On February 17, 1845, the Board of Directors inspected the ground offered in both villages. Then they met to reach some decision. In the following words they announced their verdict: "Whereas it now devolves on the Board of Directors to select and permanently fix the location of their institution; and, whereas, the subscription in money and property offered by the citizens of Clark County, Ohio, exceeds that offered by any other community; and, whereas, the natural and other advantages of Springfield to the Institution are good; Therefore, resolved, that Springfield, Clark County, Ohio, be, and hereby is, made the permanent location of Wittenberg College, with the confident expectation, however, from assurance given, that the subscription will be considerably enlarged."³ Springfield had won! The transplanting of the school to that community was to be the real beginning of an institution which at the present writing is celebrating its centennial.

A fresh start imbued everyone with new life. The Board appointed a committee to erect a more imposing building than any previously contemplated. It was to rise three stories, with basement, and its measurements were roughly established as "not to exceed one hundred by forty-four feet."⁴

Professor Keller was instructed to write to Professor W.

1. Confusion arises from the fact that Wittenberg's original campus is by some writers described as eighteen acres, by others seventeen. The explanation for this variance is quickly seen in the following description of the college grounds: "Eighteen acres of ground immediately north of Buck Creek and about one mile and a fourth from the Court House. Attached to this and for the exclusive use of said ground and the farm of Mr. I. Ward will be a road containing two acres and a bridge over Buck Creek, one acre included in said road is deducted from the eighteen acres aforesaid. The said ground, road, and bridge, the latter of which is yet to be completed, has been recently purchased at a cash price for eleven hundred dollars." See First Volume of Board Minutes, p. 22.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 27.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 28.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 29.

H. Reynolds of Gettysburg College, offering that gentleman the position of head of the college department. He made no immediate reply, but more will be said of him on a later page.

In looking over the site selected to the north of the village of Springfield, Ezra Keller had great dreams of what might be brought to pass on those grounds.¹ He wrote in his diary on April 3, 1845, the day after he had been roaming over the rolling grounds of the college: "Yesterday I aided in the survey of the college grounds. I worked so much that my weariness amounts to suffering. This is a lovely spot for the location of a literary institution. It requires some faith to believe that in after years it will be an academic grove, to which hundreds will resort to drink at the pure fountains of knowledge, and go forth into the world to do good, to bless mankind. And yet I have faith to believe that this will all be realized. If my eyes shall not be permitted to behold these blessed results, yet, when they shall be closed in death, others will see them and rejoice and bless the Lord for what he has done, in rearing such an instrumentality of blessing."² Wittenberg was still in the stage of visions and dreams, but the dreams gave great hope of fulfillment.

As he viewed the college grounds from every angle, Keller realized that seven acres lying to the east of the initial property offered a commanding site for a college building. With his usual foresight he saw that in time the college would need and welcome additional ground. So he managed to secure the additional acreage for the college through subscriptions raised in and about Springfield. In this way the institution acquired the rising ground on which the first college building, later named Myers Hall, was erected. From the steps of that

1. This writer has been unable to locate the diary of Ezra Keller. Its recovery would give to the College an historical document of inestimable worth. In 1859, a little more than ten years after Keller's death, his biography was published by the Reverend M. Diehl, professor of ancient languages in Wittenberg College. This book is rich in source material as the greater portion of it consists of direct quotations from Keller's diary or journal. From Diehl's biography the following statements are copied.

2. Diehl, *op. cit.*, p. 282.

building much of the city of Springfield stretches before one's gaze.

When the Lutheran Synod of Miami was formed in southern Ohio in October, 1844, its members approved the establishment of the college. Two laymen and two clergymen were elected to represent the Synod on the College Board of Directors. These men from the Miami Synod were present for the first time at the important meeting of the Board held in Springfield in February of 1845. A few months later, one of their number, the Reverend D. P. Rosenmiller, of Dayton, Ohio, was honored with the presidency of the Board.

At this time, June, 1845, Professor Reynolds of Gettysburg College was elected as the first president of Wittenberg College. Up to this time no provision had been made for a permanent head of the institution. There was to be a head of the collegiate department and another of the theological department. The task of coordinating the work of the two departments and serving as general head of the school, according to the constitution, was to be placed in the hands of whom-ever the faculty elected from among its own members. This individual was to be selected at the beginning of each school year for a one year term. A revised constitution placed this selection in the hands of the Board of Directors and resulted in the choice of Professor Reynolds. The abilities of this man were unquestioned. He was a scholar of reputation who would add to Wittenberg's prestige. As he had indicated that he was willing to come to Springfield to head the collegiate department, the Board now offered him the presidency of the institution. Professor Keller, who had been serving as head of the school without title, was now elected to the chair of Christian Theology on a permanent basis.

At this time the Board took action, also, to inaugurate a grammar school, placing in the hands of the faculty the

responsibility for finding suitable rooms and for appointing qualified instructors. Then, in order to make known to the church at large the entire educational program that was to be offered in Springfield, a campaign of advertising was agreed upon. The following announcement appeared on September 5, 1845 in the *Lutheran Observer*, a paper widely distributed throughout the General Synod:

Wittenberg College

The Grammar School of the institution will be opened at Springfield, Clark County, Ohio, on the first Monday of November. The winter session will embrace two quarters of eleven weeks each. Two competent teachers will be employed to give instruction in all the branches usually taught in Academies and in High Schools, viz; English Grammar, Algebra, Latin, Greek, German, Geography, History, Arithmetic, and the higher branches of Mathematics, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy, etc.

Instruction in Theology will also be given by Professor Keller, who will superintend the school during the winter term.

Tuition will be given at the rate of five dollars per quarter for the lower branches, and six dollars for the higher branches, to be paid in advance for each quarter.

Boarding and furnished rooms can be obtained for \$1.25 per week; wood at \$1.25 per cord, and washing at fifty cents per month. Such as wish to board themselves will have little expense, as provisions are very cheap.

Springfield is distinguished for its healthfulness and the morality and kindness of its citizens. Much attention will be paid to the manners and morals of the students who may be placed in the care of any of the instructors.

For fuller particulars address: Reverend Ezra Keller, Springfield, Clark County, Ohio.

J. B. Reck, Secretary of the Board
of Wittenberg College.

The school sessions in Wooster, Ohio, had ended at the close of the summer of 1844 after three months of teaching.

For a year thereafter, while a new location was being sought, classes were not held. Now the school was being reopened in the fall of 1845 in Springfield with a new charter. Once more students put in their appearance. Again Ezra Keller and his assistants prepared to train the minds of young men thirsting for knowledge. Two others, beside Keller, rounded out the faculty of the school. Mr. G. G. Sauerwine taught languages. He had secured his education at Gettysburg College and Yale University. Mathematics and the natural sciences were taught by Mr. J. Welty. Both men, though well trained for the teaching profession, left the college after a single school-year of service.

Professor Reynolds, who had been tendered the presidency of the institution, declined the doubtful honor. There was little the college could offer anyone as an inducement to serve as president. In spite of all the work done to date no buildings had been erected, the financial structure of the college was most unreliable, the success of the entire venture was still a matter of conjecture. The declination of Professor Reynolds put back upon the shoulders of Ezra Keller the burden of heading the institution for another indefinite period of time. It is not too much to say that through all these months of bitter struggle, the efforts of Ezra Keller were the prime factor in the continuance of the institution. Had he chosen to enjoy the pleasant opportunities open to him in the East, there might not be any Wittenberg College today to celebrate a century of sterling service to the youth of America.

It can be said that Wittenberg not only was conceived as a church college but its first sessions were actually held in a church. Prior to the erection of the first college building, classes were held in the First Lutheran Church of Springfield, which had been erected during the summer of 1845. This congregation was under the pastoral care of Ezra Keller, who

had taken up where the Reverend John Lehman had left off a few years earlier. Keller gathered together the people to whom John Lehman had preached, but who, in the months following his departure, had become scattered. With Keller as their minister, these people decided on a fresh start and erected a one-story building in which to hold services. Excerpts from Keller's diary reveal the progress of the work and his own activities at various times throughout the summer and fall of 1845:

"Springfield, June 3. I arrived at home on Saturday, after an absence of four weeks; found my family well, the new church commenced, and ready for the laying of the corner-stone."¹

"July 6. Our national blessings, was the theme of my pulpit discourse this morning. It is a subject appropriate to the sacred desk, and perhaps too much neglected. What a goodly heritage our Heavenly Father has bestowed upon us, and with what feelings of gratitude should we contemplate the gifts of his hands? May these blessings be transmitted unimpaired to our posterity. May Jehovah be our King, and the King of our descendents to the latest generation! May this land evermore be Emanuel's land!"²

"July 8. Yesterday, I aided the building committee in marking out the site of our college edifice."³

"September 4. Today our fifth child, a daughter, was born. May she live and be an ornament to the Church of God, to whom she has been dedicated."⁴

"September 28. Much sickness and mortality have prevailed in our community. My time has been consumed, in superintending the building of my church, visiting the sick, and burying the dead. Glad will I be when I shall be released from the secular business which necessity now imposes upon me. Yesterday I prepared my annual report for the Board of Directors, to whose meeting, at Wooster, I expect to start to-morrow. During the year I traveled three thousand two hundred miles, not includ-

1. Diehl, *op. cit.*, p. 289.

2. *Ibid.*, pp. 290, 291.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 291.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 295.

ing short distances; I preached one hundred and seventy-two sermons, and delivered a number of addresses; organized one congregation; put two churches in progress of erection; collected for college six thousand dollars, for churches one thousand dollars; instructed four theological students two hours each day, during the summer. For strength to perform this labor, I render my thanks to God. The more toil, the more grace." ¹

What an intrepid laborer in the vineyard of the Lord!

"October 14. . . . On my return home, I was surprised to find a communication from the Board of Trustees of Jefferson College, Pa., informing me that the honorary degree of D. D. had been conferred upon me by them. As an expression of public confidence, and a means of usefulness, if it can be made such, I feel thankful for this mark of favor. May it be the means of honoring God, and not man. This is the sincere desire of my heart. How good has the Lord been to me! . . . At the same meeting, this degree was conferred on Prof. Thornwell, and the degree of L. L. D. upon the Honorable Henry Clay." ²

"October 25. Sabbath eve. Today I preached thrice, and rode eighteen miles. During the past week I preached two funeral sermons." ³

"November 1. Saturday evening. During this week I have been quite unwell. Some days I was scarcely able to do any work; and yet I was necessitated to labor and urge on the work, so as to have the basement rooms in the church ready for the opening of our school. They are not plastered, and the floor above is only laid with loose boards. But in this condition we expect to use them.

"Mr. Welty, one of our teachers, has arrived. Mr. Sauerwine is detained in Baltimore, by sickness. A few students are on the grounds." ⁴

"Monday evening, November 3, 1845. Today we opened our grammar school at Springfield. To this period, I have been looking forward with deep anxiety. We commenced this morning with five pupils — three boys, one lad, and one young man.

1. *Ibid.*, pp. 295, 296.

2. *Ibid.*, pp. 299, 300.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 300.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 300.

During the day, four others came in, so that, at its close, the number had increased to nine. I have been busy examining students, arranging their studies, fixing up stoves, etc. Evening has now come, and I am glad to rest. How sweet will be the repose of heaven to our wearied souls!

"It requires strong faith to anticipate a large and well-endowed institution from so small a beginning; but

'Large oaks from little acorns grow,

Large streams from little fountains flow.'

"If God be with us, we shall succeed." ¹

Once more the ship had been launched. The same skipper was at the helm, a portion of the original crew remained as members of the Board of Directors. What lay ahead upon uncharted seas, no man could foretell. But the thought of those who were most interested in the work was reflected in the statement of Keller, "If God be with us, we shall succeed."

On these opening pages the earliest struggle for the creation of the College and Seminary have been presented. They portray a spirit that is thrilling to behold. That spirit was typical of America in a day when by sheer strength and fortitude its citizens were preparing to raise it to greatness in the hall of nations.

Looking back in retrospect, we see a few dollars donated by men who had to dig down deep into their pockets to find a little silver—that is Wittenberg College. Determination to create a college in the face of overwhelming odds, starting from "scratch", unable to offer a single professor a full-time salary—that is the beginning of Wittenberg. Dreams of an institution of learning to shed its light upon the frontier, a desire to train men for the ministry, to bring the gospel to the wilderness—that is Wittenberg. Self-sacrificing loyalty, hard-won achieve-

1. *Ibid.*, p. 301.

ment, earned and merited recognition—that, too, is Wittenberg. Enough success in the initial stages to encourage the hearts of its founders—that is the story of Wittenberg after three years of struggle, a decade and a half before Abraham Lincoln became President of the United States.

PART II

BRINGING THE DREAM TO REALITY

Chapter III

Transplanting in Springfield

Wittenberg's first year in Springfield must have surprised many skeptics who were disdainful of any culture arising that far west. Anyone with eyes to see could discern great potentialities in the farm lands and timber of Ohio; but in cultural fields the state seemed to be generations removed from any real achievement. It was an area of forest wilderness whose scattered communities lacked adequate communications and commercial lanes. Wittenberg would have to be outstanding in order to win recognition in the East.

During the school year of 1845-1846, under Keller's vigorous and talented leadership, the course of instruction was given in the basement, or ground-floor, rooms of the First Lutheran Church of Springfield. The library expanded considerably. Student life was enriched through devotional and forensic activities. A hill-top site on the campus having been cleared of trees, the first college building was erected with students and faculty contributing their labor. Although the

building was known as Recitation Hall, in later years it formed the east wing of what is now called Myers Hall. In a few months the school presented an appearance which drew praise from the editor of the *Lutheran Observer*. He had the following to say about Wittenberg in the columns of his paper on April 17, 1846:¹ "We had the pleasure of attending the first examination and exhibition of this institution on the 2nd instant, and were agreeably surprised to see how very much this school in its incipient state recommends itself to the confidence and patronage of the public. It seems but yesterday that the enterprise was commenced and was looked upon by many as an experiment of doubtful result. Difficulties of a pecuniary character have cramped its operations yet it has met with unexpected success and now bids fair to become eventually an institution of eminence and usefulness."

Expenses incurred by students, exclusive of books, clothes, light, and travelling expenses, were listed thus in the first college catalog:²

WINTER SESSION

Board and room furnished, twenty-four weeks, at one dollar twenty-five per week	\$30.00
Tuition and incidental	17.00
Washing at fifty cents per month	3.00
Wood	1.50

	\$51.50

SUMMER SESSION

Board and room furnished, sixteen weeks, at one dollar twenty-five per week	\$20.00
Tuition and incidental	11.50
Washing, sixteen weeks, at fifty cents per month	2.00

	\$33.50

1. p. 134.

2. See p. 15 of First College Catalog, for years 1845-47.

It was stated, further, that room rent could be reduced if two or three students would share a room and divide the rent of one dollar per month.

On Tuesday, September 1, 1846, the Board of Directors met for the first time on the college site. Though far from completed, the first college building was now under roof. At that meeting a summary of the first year of the school's history in Springfield was presented to the Board by Ezra Keller. Coming directly from the man who himself had vital connections with practically every phase of that history, what he had to say is both authentic and appealing. These are the words which he spoke:

"In accordance with the 3rd section of the 3rd article of the constitution, which requires the Faculty to make a summary report of its proceedings during the year, to the Board at every annual meeting, the undersigned respectfully submits the following. The institution opened regularly on the first Monday of last November and continued in session twenty-two weeks to the first of April. During the Session the Theological class consisted of four members, Rev. H. Link, A. Helwig, J. Burket and A. R. Howbert who entered about the middle of the Session. The following branches were taught: Archaeology, Hermeneutics, Biblical Criticism, Sacred Rhetoric and the German and Greek Languages with exegetical exercises and a part of Systematic Theology and Homiletics. The Academical Department was taught by P. G. Sauerwine and J. Welty and was attended by 42 pupils who attended to the various branches of an English, classical and Scientific education, viz., Modern Geography, English Grammar, Algebra, Davies' First Lessons and Bourden, Geometry, Plane Trigonometry, Surveying, Navigation, Art, Philosophy, Chemistry, Rhetoric, Logic, General History, Greek as far as Xenophon's Anabasis and Latin as far as Livy. The students also exercised in composition and

declamation every Saturday morning, before their instructors; and on every Friday night in a Literary Society formed by the older members of the School. Such students as were not engaged in S. School instruction, were required to attend a Bible recitation on Sabbath and all were required to attend worship at the opening and close of the School each day and twice on each Sabbath. The candidates for the Ministry, seven of which were in attendance during this session, also attended with the congregation a lecture on Wednesday evening, and a Meeting for religious conference and prayer on Saturday evening. The Second session began on the 4th of May and continued 18 weeks. Dr. Joseph Focht was added to the Theology Class. During this term the Theological Class finished Syst. Divinity and Homiletics and studied Pas. Theol. and Ch. History very cursorily by the construction of charts and also attended to the Greek exegesis.

“The Academical department had 57 students and was taught by the Brethren M. Diehl and H. Geiger; towards the close the undersigned assisted an hour each day and during the whole term instructed three hours each day in the German. About the same Branches have been taught this Sess. as the last and the Institution was conducted in the same way. Two of our students are now prepared for the Sophomore Class of the collegiate course and three for the Freshman. The Theology class generally has recited twice a day and in the academic departments instructions are given six hours daily.

“Two Literary Societies have been formed, which are very useful to the members and the Institution. They have collected already about 800 volumes for the Libraries, a large number of which are standard works entirely new. These young gentlemen deserve much praise for their laudable exertions. The College Library has now 354 volumes. The thanks of the Board are due to the donors of these books, espe-



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, Springfield

cially to Rev. T. Lape of New York, and congregation,¹ who sent us 295 volumes and Brother Lape himself eleven volumes, together with 56 copies of his excellent Manual on Baptism, to be sold for the benefit of the Institution. Some valuable contributions have also been made for the formation of a cabinet of minerals and curiosities.

"The following summary will exhibit the progress of the Institution. The number of students connected with the Institution during the year is 73. The highest number in attendance at any one time is 62. Of these 23 are candidates for the Ministry and 28 are professors of religion. The number of volumes connected with the Institution is 1154. The earnings of the students of the Institution during the year have amounted to \$247.86. We would respectfully suggest to the Board for their mature consideration the following items of business viz., 1. To provide the Institution with means to employ more instructors. The duties of the present Instructors are quite too numerous and arduous. They have been jeopardizing their health already in performing the duties of their several stations. The Board should also fix the amount of salary each is to receive. 2—The Board should also take some action in regard to the intellectual qualifications and educational training requisite to entrance into the Theology (course) department. Would it not be well to permit the students who are taking a regular academical course to take up a branch in the Theological Department in connection with their other studies such as Evidence of Christianity, Archaeology and Ch. History. The Board shall also take measures to obtain at least some parts of a Philosophical Apparatus—It will be impos-

1. This was a splendid collection of books which a former pastor, W. C. Berkenmyer, had left to the congregation at his death. His private library was known for its great worth. Berkenmyer preached in German, Dutch, and English, and could write in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. His selection of books reflects the choice of a man of intellect. The outstanding works of many celebrated scholars are numbered among the volumes of this prized historical collection. Publication dates of these books range from 1592 to 1744. Forty-six were printed prior to 1650. For additional information see the article by Dr. J. O. Evjen, describing the Berkenmyer collection in the April, 1925, issue of THE LUTHERAN QUARTERLY.

sible to give satisfaction in the Scientific department without it. Seventy-five dollars would be sufficient.

"The undersigned has reason to believe that many funds and books might be at once collected both East and West for the Institution by a suitable agent—Letters giving this appearance can be laid before the Board. We would therefore earnestly advise the appointment of such agent. We also suggest, that the Constitution be so altered as to allow the annual meeting to be held in August. The summer session ought to close about the middle of August and then we could throw the whole of the feverish season' into a vacation of six weeks which would be an advantage to students and teachers.

"Thankful for the tokens of Divine favor, which our infant Institution has hitherto received, we again commend it to the wise direction and nurturing care of the Board and especially to the care of Him for whose glory it has been established.

Respectfully submitted

(signed) Ezra Keller"²

This report is illuminating in several respects. It reveals that Keller was teaching eight different subjects to Seminarians, in addition to three hours he spent each day instructing younger students in German. Besides his teaching schedule, he had general oversight of the institution and was pastor of a congregation. The two professors in the Academical Department taught sixteen subjects. Such a situation not only placed a tremendous teaching load on each of the three instructors, but it demanded advanced knowledge, as well, in more subjects than most men are able to master.

Reference is made in Dr. Keller's report to the formation of two literary societies during that first year in Springfield. Both groups flourished for more than eighty years. Genera-

1. The term "feverish season" is no doubt applied to the closing weeks of summer when either malaria or typhoid fever, or both, became more prevalent.

2. See First Volume of Board Minutes, pp. 37-40.

tions of students profited from their influence. Memories of the rivalry of the two societies kindled in alumni a glow of pleasure long after student days had ended. Whereas studies pursued under the prod of a professor's assignment might lack spontaneity and fervor, the public programs of these societies roused the members to prolific reading, careful preparation of papers, and weeks of mental activity.

Seven men founded the first society. After two preliminary meetings they gathered with six other students, all of whom became charter members, to adopt a constitution and elect officers. At this meeting, held on November 20, 1845, the name of Excelsior Society was chosen.¹ The object of the organization was defined as "the mental, moral and social improvement of its members." The young men met every Friday afternoon to give themselves to reading, declamation, oratory and debate. Throughout the year, and especially when new students enrolled at the beginning of the second semester, the society increased its membership. Towards the end of the first year someone conceived the idea of forming a rival society. Accordingly, thirteen members of the Excelsior Society, including six of the founders, withdrew from that organization, taking with them by agreement one half of the funds and credits. On the fourth of July, 1846, they formed the Philosophian Society. Its aims and program were similar to those of the initial organization. The two groups were of nearly equal strength in every way. Their friendly rivalry became intense. The competitive spirit thus engendered stimulated the growth of their libraries, with the Excelsior Society possessing 2200 volumes at the end of five years. Competition resulted in debates and literary contests of superior merit between the two groups. These public meetings drew many citizens of Springfield as well as students and faculty. Across the years the

1. Students were led to the choice of this name by the poem of that title from the pen of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. When the famous poet learned of this selection, he wrote a letter to the officers of the Society, expressing his appreciation.

campus frequently echoed to the organization yells: "Excel! Excel, Excel, we do excel! Altus et altior! Excelsior," and "Philor! Philor! Philor Tés Sophias."

At first the societies met in the rooms on the ground floor of the First Lutheran Church; then rooms were set aside for them in the college building. Finally, they moved into the building erected in 1884, now known as Recitation Hall. Their meeting rooms were decorated and furnished in good taste at considerable expense.

Faculty members could join either organization, but no one was allowed to belong to both groups. Honorary memberships, established during the first days of the organizations, were continued for about twenty years. This brought into special membership ministers, lawyers, physicians and men of prominence in various callings. The list of men accepting election as honorary members included such famous individuals as Henry Clay and Edgar Allan Poe.¹ There will be further mention of the activities of these groups on later pages of this history.

Returning in thought to the College Board meeting of September, 1846, one finds that the minutes of Wednesday, September 2, bear two more noteworthy references to Doctor Ezra Keller. The first reveals that low as his salary was, the school was far in arrears in meeting this obligation to its faithful servant. On that date the Board admitted it owed him \$680.00. This sum represented a major portion of his meager college salary for the past two years. The church he served was paying him a small sum and apparently he was not willing to press his claims on the college at a time when every penny available was needed to complete the first college building and

1. Mary E. Phillip's biography of Edgar Allan Poe mentions Poe's letter acknowledging the action of the Philosophical (sic) Society in electing him to honorary membership. The date of this letter is February 9, 1847; in it Poe expresses his "grateful acceptance and appreciation of the honour." See Mary E. Phillip, *Edgar Allan Poe, the Man* (Philadelphia, 1926), p. 1220.

permit the removal of classes to the campus.¹

Having placed themselves so greatly in debt to Doctor Keller, both financially and otherwise, the members of the Board now tendered him their highest honor. It was "Resolved, that Rev. Ezra Keller, D.D., be and is hereby elected, President of Wittenberg College, located at Springfield, Ohio."² This responsible appointment Doctor Keller very reluctantly accepted. Keller's diary reveals that this was not the first time he had been offered that position. On September 4, 1846 he wrote: "At their recent meeting, the Board of Directors again requested me to accept the presidency of the institution. I had several times refused this honor under the impression that I could be more useful by devoting my time to theological and pastoral pursuits. But as no one with suitable qualifications can be found, who will undertake the labor for the small compensation offered, I have with great reluctance accepted it. My sincere prayer is, that this act may redound to the glory of God."³

From the founding of the college Doctor Keller had shouldered much of the work, while receiving little honor. Now he was to enjoy the distinction of being president of the institution in name as well as in fact. He was inaugurated on the following August 30, 1847, in the College edifice, in the presence of the Board of Directors.

A thick grove of trees surrounded the building, making it appear to be set out in a wilderness far away from humanity. These trees were to furnish the students with cord wood for heating their rooms. Money for the completion of the first building, and a portion of the college's current expenses, were secured, also, from the timber which densely covered the campus. Amid such surroundings, the first inauguration cere-

1. Part of the sum owed him by the college was for money he had taken from his own pocket to apply to bills incurred in erecting the college building.

2. First Journal of Board Minutes, p. 48.

3. Diehl, *op. cit.*, pp. 316, 317.

monies held in the history of Wittenberg were brief and to the point. The College Board simply stopped in the midst of its business session to hear an address by the Reverend W. H. Harrison, whom they had elected for that purpose. Doctor Keller and Professors Michael Diehl and H. P. Gieger then signed their names to a simple declaration of their Christian faith and of their acceptance of Lutheran doctrine. After prayer had been offered, the Board returned to its order of business at the point where the proceedings had been interrupted by the inaugural ceremonies.

Keller continued to prosecute vigorously the many duties which were his. He combined the responsibilities of college president, professor, pastor of First Lutheran Church, and missionary to numerous communities where he organized Lutheran congregations. Though not given to complaining, he confided to his diary that he was often weary from too much toil and responsibility. Some evidence of his activities can be gained from the following extracts: "Two hours each day I consume in theological instruction; thrice a week I hear a class in natural philosophy; twice in German and twice in English prosody; lecture every Wednesday evening; attend a conference meeting with the students every Saturday evening; have the general superintendence of the school, and preach twice or thrice every Sabbath. Beside, I direct the improvements on the college grounds, have an extensive correspondence, in addition to my domestic affairs. As to toils, I can lay some claim to being a Lutheran, for Luther was emphatically a man of toils."¹ Physical, as well as intellectual tasks demanded his time, as we learn from the following: "This entire week, I have been busy superintending improvements on the college grounds; have had at work three carpenters, four plasterers, and six or seven students felling trees, peeling bark, and mauling rails."²

1. Diehl, *op. cit.*, p. 319.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 324.

Wittenberg's third year in Springfield found the school established on firmer foundations. An amazing growth in student enrollment raised the student body to 107 in regular attendance, with a grand total of 139 in all classes. A professorship of Belles Lettres was established. Tuition fees were raised, thus increasing the income of the college. They were now set at \$20.00 for the English branches in the Preparatory Department, and \$28.00 for all the branches in both departments. A few years later, the latter figure was raised to \$30.00 where it remained for several decades. Agents were appointed to solicit financial aid in Clark County, among Lutheran Churches on the territory, and among Lutherans east of the Mountains who could be encouraged to give to the young institution.

Even at this early period in the nation's development, the educators who were moulding the college and seminary in Springfield were setting high standards. They were true to the Lutheran tradition of stressing the value of education and of insisting upon a well-trained ministry. In 1846, when larger denominations in America were opening the ranks of their ministry to anyone with a desire to preach, regardless of training and education, the Wittenberg Board passed the following resolutions: "Resolved, That no person shall be allowed to study any theological branch who shall not be acquainted with English Grammar, and Ancient and Modern Geography. Persons studying theological branches may prosecute any academic branch by permission of the Professor of Theology.

"Resolved, That the faculty shall urge all candidates for the ministry to take a full collegiate course, or at least a thorough preparatory course prior to entering on the theological course." At the time that these resolutions were passed, nearly half of the student body, fifty-one men, to be exact, were candidates for the ministry.

1. See First Journal of Board Minutes, p. 57.

No one was admitted to the Freshman Class of the college until he had successfully passed an examination in Caesar, Virgil, Bullion's Greek Reader, Bullion's Greek and Latin Grammars, Latin Prosody, Geography, Ancient and Modern, English Grammar, Arithmetic, the History of the United States, and Watts on the Mind. A further stipulation declared that "in all cases, satisfactory testimonials of good moral character are required; and those who have been connected with other colleges must produce certificates of honorable dismission."¹

A student of that day has written a description of the college as he first viewed it. W. H. Wynn, Ph.D., D.D., in an article for *The Wittenberger*, printed after he had joined the faculty, writes thus of his experiences:

"In the spring of 1848 I came, a lad of fifteen years of age, to Wittenberg College. The institution was in its earliest infancy; there was but one wing of the college building erected, and it was unfinished and presenting an extremely bald and ungainly appearance. There was a kind of trestle work for a stairway leading from the east door to the several floors on which the students had their dorms, and further up to where the two societies had their halls, with a long, narrow recitation room in between. The clearings round the building had pushed the forest but a little way from the site, and stumps and brush were everywhere the objects of the competitive industries of the students in the trial of their skill, and the well-directed exercise of their esthetic tastes. Dr. Keller went personally with those laboring squads, and put himself down to a familiar companionship with them in their toil. The stumps smoked; the brush heaps went up in flames; tall trees were felled by skillful axemen, for the majority of those students were the hardy sons of the west. They had brawny limbs, and understood their work."

1. From the first college Catalog, pp. 11, 12, for the years 1845-47.

Keller now experienced the satisfaction which comes from seeing an enterprise not only begin but gather strength. He could look upon Wittenberg in 1848, after three years of life in Springfield, with a dawning realization that the school was going to live. Its friends were increasing in number. Their support was growing. Student enrollment gave the college a respectable size for that day. Many small and irritating problems were being solved. Each school year should find the sailing more smooth than the previous one. If he could have lived to see them, the next twenty years would have brought him some measure of reward for his painful labors of the past. But at this point, while he was still young in years, only thirty-seven, the earthly toil of Wittenberg's first president was terminated.

During the summer of 1848, while on a visit to Maryland, Keller had expressed to friends his intimation that this would be his last time among them.¹ In mid-December of 1848 he was stricken with typhoid fever. After once giving evidence of recovery, he sank rapidly and died early on the morning of December 29. At dawn the bells of the city tolled the news of his death to a community that had come to honor and love him. Both the city and the college were genuinely bereaved by his passing.

Final rites were conducted on December 30 in the First Lutheran Church. The sermon was preached by the president of the Board of Directors, the Reverend Solomon Ritz. Several other pastors, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, participated in the services. Before the casket was closed, students gathered around it with tears in their eyes. Thus they paid a last, silent tribute to one whom they both respected and loved. He was buried on the college campus, a most appropriate burial ground for one whose life had been dedicated to the institution and

1. Diehl, *op. cit.*, p. 340.

whose days had been shortened because of his labors on behalf of the college.¹

Keller represented an element in the Lutheran Church which partook freely of the spirit of American Protestant Christianity of his day. It was an era of revivals, of emphasis upon experiential Christianity, an age that stressed the practical. Keller felt himself a kindred spirit to Doctor S. S. Schmucker of Gettysburg, who fervently sought an American Lutheranism, freed from the German culture in which it had been reared, and adapted to the American pattern of thought and action. It was not until long after Keller's death that those Lutherans in America who had been inclined toward revivals and a more emotional type of religion veered away from those practices. Throughout his life, however, Keller continued to advocate these religious forms. In religious thought and practice he was definitely a child of his age, representative of the time and area from which he came. It was in the educational field that he made a permanent contribution to America and to the life of his church.

1. Doctor Benjamin Prince has described the location of the grave as "not more than 200 yards from the building he had commenced to erect. . . . The spot was about fifty feet east of the present Keller Hall. In 1860 the body was taken up for reasons not known, and reinterred on a ridge about 300 feet northwest of Keller Hall. When Ferncliff Cemetery was opened, his relatives and friends had his casket transferred to that place." See pp. 82, 83 of Prince's manuscript history of Wittenberg College.

Chapter IV

Sprecher Succeeds to the Presidency

On January 17, 1849, the members of the Wittenberg Board met informally to make arrangements for filling the position from which death had removed Doctor Keller. While those present constituted a quorum, notice of the meeting had not been made far enough in advance to meet constitutional requirements. The Board minutes testify that "those present determined notwithstanding to call Reverend Samuel Sprecher to the Professorship of Theology and pledged him their support should he accept. A correspondence was authorized in accordance with this, which resulted in the acceptance of the call by Brother Sprecher, not however until in March, when the Board had met again, but unfortunately without a quorum in consequence of those who were at distance being unable to be with us on account of the impassibleness of the roads."¹

The legality of the proceedings, in calling Professor Sprecher, might well be questioned, yet no ulterior motive is evident. The first meeting was not legal, even though a quorum was present. The second meeting was properly called, but no quorum was attained. Still, Sprecher was soon on the grounds and entered immediately into his duties. The entire situation was treated in a most practical manner by the Board at a meeting on August 14, 1849. In a properly called meet-

1. First Journal of Board Minutes, p. 83.

ing, with a quorum present, the following action was taken: "Resolved, That on account of the unavoidable informality of the several meetings with a view to Reverend Samuel Sprecher's election to the first Professorship in Wittenberg College, we will enter into such election at our Spring Session."¹

"Resolved, That inasmuch as Brother Sprecher has been virtually elected by the members of this Board and has already entered upon his duties as Professor of Christian Theology in this institution, his inauguration takes place this evening."² This action gives an insight into practical, American frontier thinking in those days.

Sprecher was the one man to whom Board members had turned as Keller's successor. They had made their decision quickly, in spite of Parliamentary obstacles. This second president of Wittenberg, like the first, was an alumnus of Gettysburg College and Seminary. At the time of his call to Wittenberg he was not well known in Ohio. Students and friends of the school at once became eager to learn what type of man was to take over the duties of the esteemed Doctor Keller. One of the first printed items in *The Lutheran Observer*, following Sprecher's call, stated that the new professor was a worthy successor to Keller, that he was a devoted advocate of revivals, and that in this as in certain other respects he would tread in the footprints of his predecessor.

Keller had advocated revivals because he had personally experienced their power. Sprecher, too, appreciated them because he himself as a boy had been converted during a series of religious meetings near his farm home in Maryland. At the same time he had felt called to enter the ministry. Prior to entering college he had clerked for several months in a store in Williamsport. There he gave evidence of his mental acumen

1. Not until March 17, 1851 did the Board pass a resolution which approved of this matter, thus making the proceedings legal and proper. Compare Board Minutes, First Journal, p. 105.

2. First Journal of Board Minutes, p. 85.

by committing to memory all the prominent political addresses of the day.¹

Sprecher graduated from Gettysburg Seminary in 1836, the same year in which Ezra Keller had completed his seminary training there. The two men were closely associated during student days and remained life-long friends. On one occasion, during college days, they faced each other as representatives of rival literary societies in an annual public contest. Both were men of sound mind, with exceptional ability as public speakers.

Following his graduation Sprecher had served Zion Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. After three years his health, which had always been frail, forced him to resign. With the return of health he was made principal of the Emmaus Institute of Middletown, Pennsylvania. The two years of experience thus gained in the field of school administration must have been profitable training for the future president of Wittenberg. In 1842 he became a pastor in Virginia and one year later moved to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. From a happy pastorate there he was called to Wittenberg six years later.²

Citizens of Springfield read the following statement concerning the new professor in *The Springfield Republic* of June 22, 1849: "It affords us great gratification that the president elect is a man who can fill the place of the lamented Keller. It is not every day that such men are found—and yet we are told Mr. Sprecher is such a man."

One who was a student at that time, Mr. J. F. Mitchell, asserts that Doctor Sprecher "was heartily welcomed by both

1. Compare Bell, P. G., *Samuel Sprecher*, p. 10.

2. P. G. Bell, in his book on Samuel Sprecher, claims that Keller selected Sprecher as his successor. Bell further states that on his deathbed Keller called the Board of Directors to his side and made them promise to secure Sprecher as the new head of the institution. (See page 16 of Bell, P. G., *A Portraiture of the Life of Samuel Sprecher, D. D., L. L. D.*) Board Minutes give no help in ascertaining the accuracy of these statements. Because of certain considerations this writer is inclined to think that no such meeting of the Board was held at the bedside of the dying man. It is much more likely that, as he realized the seriousness of his illness, Keller may have summoned to his bedside a few of the Board Members who were readily accessible, telling them of Sprecher and advocating his selection as second president of Wittenberg. The quick decision of the Board to call Sprecher, a man not widely known in the church, makes the statement that Keller had at some time suggested the name of Sprecher plausible.

students and citizens. I well remember the first Sabbath when he preached in the basement of the First English Lutheran Church. It was there that he made a lasting impression upon all who heard him. . . . At the close of the service we all felt sure that the right man had been selected.”¹

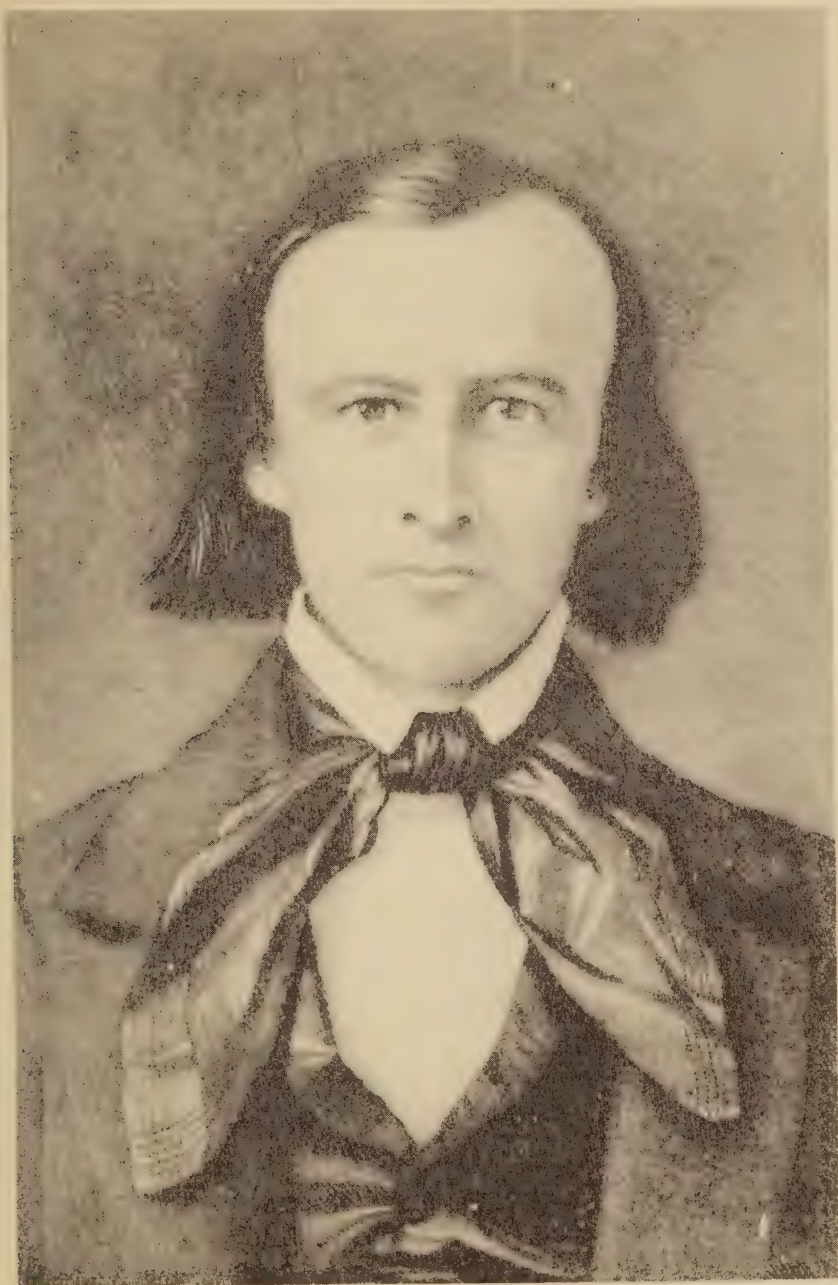
At the time of Doctor Sprecher's arrival the daily routine of Wittenberg students was such as to discourage the indolent from enrolling in college. The following schedule prevailed:

4:30 a. m.	Rise
5:45	Morning Worship
6:00	Breakfast
7:00	Beds must be made, room swept and put in order. Fine of five cents for neglect.
8:30	Class recitations and study
12:00-2:00	Recreation
2:00-5:00	Class recitations and study
8:00	Worship
9:30	Retiring bell
10:00	Lights out

Further details of the routine of student life were given by one who belonged to the student body at that time.² “During all other hours, except for hours of his recitations, each student is expected to be in his own room, and hence no standing about the passages or visiting in other students' rooms will be permitted during hours of study. No student shall sit in his window, study aloud or sing in his room during study hours, so as to interfere with his room-mate or students in other rooms. Every room shall be furnished with a bucket for the purpose of receiving waste paper and all necessary rubbish, which shall be carried out of the house, so that nothing of the kind be thrown out of the window to deface the building. Every student violating this regulation will subject himself to a fine of ten cents. Every student who uses tobacco will be expected to

1. Bell, *op. cit.*, p. 17.

2. This schedule, together with the explanatory paragraph which accompanies it, was discovered in the *Lutheran Observer* for August 17, pages 1 and 2. It is one of a series of articles on Wittenberg written for the *Observer* by one who signed himself Andrew.



PRESIDENT SAMUEL SPRECHER, D.D., LL.D. 1849-1874

keep a spittoon in his room, and no smoking will be permitted in any of the passages or around the building. Every student will be expected to attend preaching twice and a Bible-class or Sabbath-school once on every Sabbath. No profane, obscene or reproachful language will be permitted. Every one violating this regulation will subject himself to severe discipline."

Among the more evident tasks immediately confronting Doctor Sprecher upon his arrival, that of completing the first college building came first. Several issues of the college catalogs had now been printed, each issue containing a full-page picture of the imposing structure as it had originally been planned to look when completed. Prospective students carrying that picture in their minds would receive a shock when they arrived on the campus to find that only the unimpressive east wing had been erected, and that even this was not entirely finished in every detail. Additional space was urgently needed for the rapidly expanding student body, which by now had entirely outgrown its quarters. College and theological students were using the campus building, while the preparatory department continued to function on the ground floor of the First Lutheran Church. On the 15th of August, 1849 the cornerstone of the larger edifice was laid. But when the excavation of the larger unit had been completed, and the walls had been laid a few feet above the ground, the funds were exhausted and work had to be suspended until Spring.

During the early years of Wittenberg's existence every possible means of raising money was utilized by the Board of Directors. Some of the methods were rather unique, others more customary. Mention has been made of the fact that financial agents were appointed to scour the country for possible donors to the college. *The Lutheran Observer*, as a medium of publicity, helped to spread information regarding the college's needs. Churches were frequently approached for financial assistance. Some Lutheran congregations furnished rooms in

the college buildings and kept them in good repair for many years. Quite a few scholarships sold during those years proved in the end to be financially embarrassing to the school. Scholarships were of three amounts. A four year scholarship cost \$30.00; one for seven years sold at \$100.00, while a perpetual scholarship could be purchased for \$350.00. Sale of these scholarships ended in 1860. Sometime later the sale was resumed and again terminated, but until recent years the existence of these perpetual scholarships continued to plague the institution. The plan for the sale of scholarships took no account of ever-rising commodity prices and tuition rates. Hence, the original purchase price came to be only a fraction of actual tuition charges at the time a student would present his scholarship.

Among less common forms of raising money two will be mentioned here. One was the sale of cemetery lots, at five dollars apiece, on the northwest corner of the campus.¹ Three and a half acres were originally set aside for a cemetery and plans made for the formation of a cemetery association. Sale of the lots was not to be binding until a total of forty had been sold, a clause in the agreement which made it possible to end this financial venture without much difficulty.

Early minutes of the Board of Directors reveal another method of raising money in those days: "Brother Sprecher reported the donation of a patent of a beehive to Wittenberg College in the counties of Franklin, Pennsylvania, and Washington and Frederick, Maryland, in consideration of which a vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. James Dugdale, the donator; and on motion a certificate was given him entitling him to the right of tuition for his son. . . .

"Resolved, That Brother Oliver and Professor Geiger be appointed our agents to sell patents for the beehive and to take

1. Compare First Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 41-43, 105.

donations and subscriptions for the college in the counties mentioned in the deed of J. Dugdale.”¹ The sale of beehive patents did not prove lucrative for the college.

At the first Board meeting, a few months after his arrival, Doctor Sprecher reported that he had accepted an invitation to address the New England Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education in the West at the annual meeting of that society in Brooklyn in October.² He was thereupon authorized to approach that body on behalf of Wittenberg. This society had already voted an annual grant of three hundred dollars to the institution in Springfield. It was now hoped that the amount would be increased. Doctor Sprecher succeeded in having the annual grant raised to six hundred dollars. This money was a tremendous help to the college in balancing the annual budget.

A fifth professor was now called to the faculty. The Reverend F. W. Conrad, elected as a second professor of theology, was also to make financial solicitations for the college. Out of the money thus gathered he would receive seven hundred dollars as an annual salary for serving on the faculty.³ To the lasting credit of Doctor Conrad be it stated that he agreed to come to the struggling institution on this basis of raising his own salary from among the friends of the school. However, he was not required to serve the school in a financial capacity for more than a year or two.

In the spring of 1850 Morris Officer, who had been enrolled as a student, was put in charge of construction. Work was then resumed on the college building and carried through

1. First Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 87, 88.

2. This society derived its chief support from the Congregational and Presbyterian churches. It was the leader among several societies with a similar aim. See Tewksbury, *The Founding of American Colleges and Universities before the Civil War*, pp. 7-12.

3. Compare First Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 88, 91, 92, 99.

to completion in December of 1851.¹ Limestone rock in abundance on the southwest corner of the campus led to the development of a stone quarry there to furnish both stone and lime for the edifice. This, together with other economies effected, made it possible to finish the building at a total cost of only \$28,000.00. The Preparatory Department was then moved from the First Lutheran Church to the campus, thus bringing all the departments of the school under one roof again. The Reverend Morris Officer now became superintendent of the building and head of the Preparatory Department.

With the school once more housed in a single building, steps were taken by the faculty to "introduce a more regular system of instruction and discipline into every department of the institution."¹ Doctor Sprecher made this recommendation with the conviction that if the higher standards of the school might cause the loss of a few students, it would be "better to sacrifice numbers than efficiency."² This determination to adhere to high standards of education and efficiency has remained a characteristic of Wittenberg throughout its history. The school has constantly sought to meet the requirements of the highest accrediting agencies and today can point with pride not only to its approval by the State of Ohio and the North Central Association, but by other agencies as well, including the select Association of American Universities.

A move was made by the Wittenberg Board of Directors in August of 1850 toward increasing faculty salaries. One of the chief difficulties in securing professors had been the small compensation offered to them. Men capable of teaching could

1. There is still extant a time-faded sheet of paper which lists the articles deposited in the cornerstone of the first college building. Those articles, seventeen in number, are as follows: The Bible, a Latin copy of the Augsburg Confession, Luther's Smaller Catechism, A Lutheran Hymn Book, the Charter and Constitution of Wittenberg College, a synopsis of the history of the institution up to that time, catalogues of the officers and students of the institution for each year since its establishment, a list of the names of the present officers and Board of Directors of the institution, *The Lutheran Observer*, *The Lutheran Standard*, *The Missionary*, *Der Lutheraner*, *Lutherischer Kirchenbote*, a list of the executive officers of the United States, a list of the executive officers of the state of Ohio, the political papers of Springfield, and an almanac for the year 1849.
2. See Sprecher's first annual report to the Board of Directors, *First Journal of Board Minutes*, p. 101.

receive elsewhere for their services more than twice as much as Wittenberg could afford to pay. Therefore, an increase "of fifty dollars for the next ensuing six months" was voted for Professors Diehl and Geiger. In March of 1851 their annual stipend became five hundred dollars, while that of Doctor Sprecher was raised to \$700.00. By 1852 the president's salary had risen to \$1,000.00; Professors Diehl and Geiger now received \$600.00, as did Doctor Conrad; and Isaac Sprecher, who by then had become head of the Preparatory School, was paid \$500.00. The next year still further increases were made to some of the men.

Meager as his salary was, Sprecher received far more money than did Ezra Keller; but the second president brought to his task the same sacrificial spirit, unceasing energy, and devotion to the cause that had characterized his predecessor. In spite of poor health, he served as professor in the seminary, taught six courses in the college, was president of the institution, went about soliciting funds to keep the school running, and for a few years was pastor of the First Lutheran Church in Springfield. His nephew, Isaac Sprecher, gives a first-hand account of the wearying toil and depressing obstacles which played so large a part in the life of President Sprecher: "My uncle was anxious to have me study theology under his direction, and I went to Springfield with this purpose, but they were short instructors in the college and my uncle was away all summer pleading for money and students, and I was asked to help in giving instruction. We were so busy with college work, teaching seven and eight hours per day, that we had no time to talk over the youthful past of our lives. My uncle would come home from these trips so exhausted and dejected that he would be in bed for several days. Aunt would send for me to try to cheer him. I did the best I could, but went to my room so

depressed that I was hardly fit for work. God alone knows what uncle suffered for Wittenberg."¹

An important year in the life of the college was 1851. Indeed, it was, in many respects, the most auspicious year in the school's history, up to that time. Advances materialized in many directions. Certain achievements are worthy of some notice here.

As concerns the faculty, that group was greatly strengthened by the addition of F. W. Conrad. The Board decided to bring still others to the institution in order to lighten the teaching load of the professors, as well as to add further talent to the faculty. W. H. Harrison, a Lutheran pastor in Cincinnati, received a call to become professor of Intellectual Philosophy and Latin.² Other men were approached by the Board, also, with a view toward enlarging the teaching staff. Increases in faculty salaries, made that year, have already been mentioned.

To strengthen the institution's finances a number of agents received appointment to represent the college in various parts of the country. Especially in Clark County efforts were expended to secure additional support. The Board members believed that the many benefits accruing to Springfield and Clark County from the location of the college in that vicinity made requests for increased financial support from that area not unreasonable. It was hoped that a sum of twenty-five hundred dollars might be raised from the three district synods on the Wittenberg territory which were supporting the college.³ The amounts sought from these three bodies were as follows: from the English Lutheran Synod of Ohio, one thousand dollars; from the Miami Synod, an equal sum; and

1. See Bell, *op. cit.*, pp. 19, 20.

2. In those days Philosophy covered a wide range of subjects, including chemistry and physics. Early Board Minutes state that a philosophical apparatus needed by the school might be received as a gift. The apparatus referred to is that which we now consider part of the equipment of a chemical laboratory. By intellectual philosophy, here referred to, is meant those courses which alone, today, are considered the rightful field of philosophy. Doctor Harrison declined the call extended to him to teach those subjects.

3. The dates of founding of the early Synods on the Wittenberg territory were as follows: The East Ohio Synod (originally the English Lutheran Synod of Ohio), 1836; Miami Synod, 1844; Wittenberg Synod, 1847; Olive Branch Synod, 1849; Northern Indiana Synod, 1855.

from the Wittenberg Synod, five hundred dollars. Action was taken by the Board of Directors to have the needs of the school made known, and Doctor Conrad was selected as the man to write an appropriate article for publication.

An expansion of the college grounds, by one-third, resulted from the purchase by the college of eight acres, adjoining the campus, from Mr. I. Ward. This acreage, at the southeast corner of the campus, gave the school the ground on the present Ward Street, running east of the campus entrance. One of the improvements to the campus made at this time was the clearing of the ground before the college building. Many trees were removed, leaving only a pleasing number for shade and beauty, and the undergrowth was cleared away. The college building could now be seen from the village of Springfield.

The first honorary degrees awarded by the institution were voted by the Board of Directors in 1851. Those honored included the Reverend Simeon W. Harkey, professor-elect of Hillsboro College, who was made a recipient of the Doctor of Divinity degree. This degree was likewise given to the Reverend Theophilus Stork of Philadelphia, who had once declined a call to the chair of Belles Lettres at Wittenberg. The Reverends I. H. Hoffman of Mansfield, P. Rizer of Dayton, and D. P. Rosenmiller of Hanover, Pennsylvania, received the Master of Arts degree.

The school year 1850-1851 saw enrollment rise to one hundred and eighty-four students, highest in the history of the college up to that time. Wittenberg now had a student enrollment greater than most schools in Ohio.

On one occasion Doctor Sprecher had lamented the low ebb of religious life among the students at Wittenberg. Apparently there had been a temporary decline in fervor since the earlier days of Keller, a fact which led the second president to lament that "there has been no general revival in the Insti-

tution."¹ The arrival of Professor Conrad was followed by the resignation of Doctor Sprecher as pastor of First Lutheran Church in Springfield, in order that he might confine his activities to the welfare of the college, and by the subsequent call of Conrad to the pastorate of First Church. Early in 1851, this congregation completed the erection of its edifice, including a church auditorium on the second floor of the building. For six years the congregation had shared its ground-floor rooms with Wittenberg and had utilized that space for both worship services and church meetings. The move from the ground floor was accompanied by renewed interest among the members of the congregation, as well as by increased devotion to the church and its spiritual interests. For several weeks religious meetings were held each night under Conrad's leadership, meetings which generated considerable enthusiasm. The effects were felt not only among the members of the congregation, but by the college students as well, due to the close relationship existing between the school and the congregation. Many of the students attended these meetings. As a result, the religious life of the students was noticeably deepened and strengthened. A few months later the students witnessed the first commissioning service for one of their number. On May 13, 1851, the Reverend W. I. Cutter, having completed his theological training, was commissioned as a missionary to India. Cutter was the first of a great number of Wittenberg students to enter the ministry of the church on foreign fields. Not long after, Morris Officer resigned as head of the Preparatory Department to be commissioned for service in Africa. He bears the distinction of being one of the first Lutheran missionaries to Liberia, Africa, where he founded the Muhlenberg Mission. These events must have warmed the heart of Doctor Sprecher, whose conscience would not let him rest until the student generation gave evidence of religious fervor.

1. See Sprecher's report to the Board of Directors, *First Journal of Board Minutes*, pp. 100, 101.

The first commencement in the history of the college was the crowning event of 1851. Nine men composed the class which received diplomas, in the newly erected City Hall of Springfield, on September 12, 1851. On that occasion Doctor Sprecher delivered his first baccalaureate address on the subject: "The Duties of an Educated Man, and the Manner in Which They Should Be Performed." To make the commencement week more impressive as well as to increase its cultural benefits, the literary societies invited a prominent clergyman of Cleveland to the campus to give an address. The Reverend Edward H. Nevin, D. D., performed that duty by speaking on "Faith in God the Foundation of Individual and National Greatness." The entire program of commencement week received high praise from the friends of the institution.

The year 1851 was an important milestone on Wittenberg's road of progress. The college had now been in Springfield for six years. It possessed a campus of thirty-three acres, upon which an imposing building of five stories had been erected. There was a faculty of five and the student body was approaching two hundred. The first graduating class had gone forth. High educational standards were being maintained. True, there remained much to be done in order to guarantee the permanency of the institution. Its resources were small. But the friends of the school were multiplying, and through the efforts of students and faculty the number of individuals interested in Wittenberg would continue to increase. Three district Lutheran Synods now assumed some degree of responsibility for the financial support of the school. On the pages of *The Lutheran Observer* news of the expanding college was being carried throughout the General Synod. Wittenberg's birth pangs were now definitely ended and a period of growing strength lay ahead.

PART III

GROWTH IN THE FACE OF CRISIS

Chapter V

Educational Trends in America During the Third Quarter of the Nineteenth Century

Doctor Sprecher came to Wittenberg in 1849 and resigned as president in 1874, remaining ten years longer as professor of theology. The twenty-five years of his presidency cover that quarter century when education in America was undergoing great changes. In fact, the period roughly bounded by Sprecher's presidency at Wittenberg brought the educational pattern of the United States out of the backwoods crudeness of the early frontier into a progressive and developed system of the modern era. In this period came the contributions of Mann, Barnard and Eliot, three men who changed the course of education in America from the first grade through the graduate schools. Their efforts produced a rapid growth of interest in public education, resulting in compulsory school attendance, greatly enlarged appropriations for schools, higher standards of preparation for the teaching profession, and the establishment of the office of United States Commissioner of Education.

With the inauguration of Charles W. Eliot as president of Harvard in 1869, the educational world acknowledged a leader whose influence had already been felt in many ways.

He immediately took steps to reform the Harvard medical school by standardizing the subjects taught and by establishing a three-year course of study. Prior to that time it had been possible to secure a medical degree after a few months of study, by presenting a statement to the effect that medicine had been read for three years, and by passing a rather sketchy examination.¹ From medicine, Doctor Eliot turned to the law school, where he again instituted educational reforms. His achievements at Harvard stimulated similar changes in graduate work elsewhere in the nation as other schools followed his leadership. Soon the old method of apprenticeship and private reading disappeared as the means of preparation for entering a profession.

Although Yale, in 1851, was the first school in the nation to grant the doctor of philosophy degree, Johns Hopkins University, which opened in 1876, was the first real graduate school in the United States. After Johns Hopkins opened its doors, several of the stronger institutions began to offer courses of graduate work leading to degrees of Master of Arts, Master of Science, and Doctor of Philosophy. By the opening of the present century the last-named degree had developed into the highest degree offered in course by any university, with rigorous, standard requirements. Wittenberg granted the Ph.D. degree during the first half century of its life as an honorary degree, but it dropped this practice when the degree became established in American Universities as one to be awarded only to graduate students for work done in residence. Early graduates of Wittenberg College received the A.M. degree upon completion of the regular college course. But in 1875 the Board of Directors voted that thereafter the degree of Master of Arts would not be conferred except on application accompanied with evidence of scholarship. To those graduates who remained on the campus for another year (later for three

1. See Knight, E. W., *Education in the United States*, p. 399.

years) to study theology, preparatory to entering the ministry, the degree of A. M. was granted automatically until the close of the nineteenth century.

Charles W. Eliot and others staunchly advocated the "New Education" movement. This term was widely used to describe certain methods employed in this period which witnessed a change in the conception previously held, with the former conceptions now referred to as "Old Education." In brief, the new process gave greater freedom along all three lines of pupil, teacher, and subject taught. Methods used by the teaching profession for many decades, and rigidly adhered to by any who directed a classroom, gave way to a wider latitude, allowing instructors room for individual ingenuity and initiative. Honors courses, and the elective system of choosing subjects to be studied from a wide offering, were innovations by which student freedom was enlarged. Further freedom came through greater liberty in the management of personal affairs. Drawing away from the time-worn classical studies, the curriculum was enlarged by the addition of more natural science, modern history, and modern languages. Whereas the Old Education tended to ascribe all virtue to the subject studied, the New Education gave greater value to the process of learning.

At Wittenberg, students were permitted from the beginning to select their courses, if they desired⁴ to receive only a certificate of attendance. In order to secure a degree, one had to follow the prescribed course of study without any freedom of choice. In 1876 German was made an optional course in the Junior year for those students who were candidates for a degree. A little later Greek, German, French, and Music were made optional for all students. The College Catalog for the year 1883-1884 was the first to state that electives were possible.

The first public high school to be established in America appeared in Boston in 1821. Because academies occupied this

field, and the need for high schools was not felt in many communities, the movement spread slowly. At the beginning of the Civil War there were only a few more than three hundred high schools in the nation, and half of these were to be found in the three states of Massachusetts, New York and Ohio. Individuals disputed the right of the state to extend public support to secondary schools. A widely influential case taken to a state supreme court was the Kalamazoo Case. A citizen had sought to restrain the school board from gathering additional taxes required to establish a high school and to employ a superintendent of schools. The Supreme Court of the State of Michigan, in 1872, gave a ringing decision in favor of the establishment of high schools. After this battle was fought, and the ground-work had been laid by slowly creating favorable public opinion, high schools grew at an amazing rate from 1880 onward.

The rise of high schools had a pronounced effect on Wittenberg and similar institutions. For one thing, the development of these secondary schools made it possible for colleges to restrict their activities to the advanced teaching of older students. Thus changes in curriculum and course offerings were inevitable. But many colleges had academies or preparatory departments, and the continued existence of these auxiliaries was threatened by the growth of high schools, which offered the inducement of free tuition. Concern arose in the Wittenberg Board of Directors, which gave the matter considerable attention. To assure a larger enrollment of students, Sprecher advocated that Wittenberg adopt the plan already used by some other schools, namely, that of selling scholarships. These were offered at two prices, a four-year scholarship for thirty dollars and one for six years at fifty dollars. But the plan did not prove a blessing. Only enough scholarships were sold to disturb the financial structure of the school. In time, as high schools appeared in every community, college academies largely

disappeared. Wittenberg finally discontinued its academy in 1926.

In the decade, 1850 to 1860, more colleges were founded than in any other ten-year span in the history of our nation.¹ During that period ninety-two colleges came into being. These were almost all denominational schools, similar to Wittenberg. In fact, of the two hundred and forty-six colleges founded in the United States prior to 1860, only seventeen were state institutions.² The rapid rise of state schools was to come later.

While the last quarter of the nineteenth century saw educational opportunities for women expand rapidly, the period dealt with in this chapter gave the movement its start. Oberlin College led the way by announcing that on the day of its opening in 1833 women would be admitted along with men. This was the first opportunity offered to women in America to pursue a college course. Previously female seminaries had given them a limited secondary education. The passing years were to see some of these seminaries become first-rate women's colleges. In 1848 the convention held at Seneca Falls, New York, to further the cause of women's rights, attracted considerable attention because of its demands for the equality of women with men in education. Catharine Beecher, eldest of Lyman Beecher's thirteen children, founded the Woman's Education Association in 1852. Its purposes included the development of training courses in domestic science and professional education for women. Syracuse University had been established in 1850 as Genesee College and was coeducational from the start. A few years later Horace Mann brought coeducation to Antioch College.

Considerable impetus to the education of women came from the founding of Vassar College. A rich brewer of Poughkeepsie financed the venture. Within a few years both Welles-

1. Compare Cubberly, *Public Education in the United States*, Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston, 1919.

2. Cubberly, *op. cit.*, p. 204.

ley and Smith had been chartered in Massachusetts. When state colleges appeared throughout the West, their portals were opened to women as well as men. This movement included the Universities of Utah and Iowa, established in mid-century. Other state schools established earlier adopted the new policy, notably Michigan in 1870, Wisconsin in 1874, and Indiana about the same time. Private institutions soon began to pursue the same course, for example, Cornell in 1872.

Wittenberg joined the procession by admitting women in 1874, forty-one years after Oberlin, the pioneer, had done so, but ahead of many outstanding colleges and universities of the day. Meanwhile, Wesleyan in Georgia, chartered in 1837, came forward with the claim of being the first women's college to confer degrees. Some colleges, principally Columbia and Harvard, found it easier to establish annexes for women than to become truly coeducational. In this way Barnard College and Radcliffe came into existence in 1889 and 1894.

Few women desired to study engineering, law or medicine, the majority being inclined more toward teaching and the fine arts. Perhaps that fact led to the slower opening of professional schools to women. Not until the first decade of the twentieth century was the opportunity for professional study widely extended to women or accepted by them.

Another significant movement in education broke the barriers which restricted college curricula to the field of classical knowledge. Schools began to train men to use science in business and life. In 1824 Stephen Van Rensselaer established at Troy, New York, the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute which is said to mark the beginning of technical education. Interest in training for scientific work, which then followed, led to the founding of other technical schools. About the time Sprecher assumed the leadership at Wittenberg, Brown University began to offer a course which omitted Greek and emphasized modern subjects, a course leading to the Bachelor of Philosophy degree.

Establishment of such schools as the Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard, and the Sheffield Scientific School at Yale, led to the granting of the degree of Bachelor of Science. This movement gained further impetus with the passage of the Morrill Act in 1862, inspired by Jonathan Turner.¹

Turner, a promoter of public schools in Illinois, advocated advanced training in agriculture and the mechanical arts. He hoped that farming and industry might be raised to the level of the traditionally learned professions. He conceived a plan whereby this type of education might be financed through the granting, by the Federal government, of a large section of public land to each of the states. His idea appeared in the Morrill Act of 1862, wherein Congress set aside lands for that purpose. This step gave great impetus to the type of education which Turner had advocated. The rise of such schools inevitably affected the curricula of other colleges, which added courses of a similar nature in order to offset the appeal which the technical and agricultural colleges had for great numbers of individuals.

The third quarter of the nineteenth century witnessed the transformation of colleges in this country from training grounds for preachers, the central purpose for which the early colleges had been established, to schools offering broad curricula. In line with this development, the Wittenberg faculty advised that a commercial department be established. This occurred in 1854, when commercial schools were only in their infancy. The Board approved of the idea and instituted such a department on an experimental basis under the leadership of Mr. A. S. Kissell. When twenty-nine students enrolled in the department the first year, many thought that it would become a permanent feature of the institution. In order to meet the demand for an additional teacher during the second year

1. Information on this act may be found in Edmund J. James, *The Origin of the Land Grant Act of 1862 and Some Account of its Author, Jonathan B. Turner* (University of Illinois, The University Studies, Vol. IV, No. 1, Nov., 1910).

when fifty-four students enrolled, Mr. Edward Harrison was hired to assist Kissell. The third year brought many difficulties. Student dissatisfaction was expressed in the declining enrollment, only twenty-three taking the commercial course. Mr. Kissell resigned as head of the department, and after trying for one more year to give the experiment a fair chance of success, the department was closed.¹

In evaluating the need, and even the propriety, of including commercial courses in the curricula of a liberal arts college, the Wittenberg Board of Directors arrived at a judgment which was later to be widely accepted by other institutions. They concluded that such courses were not a logical part of a college curriculum. The students enrolling for instruction in the commercial field, they declared, were seeking a practical education and did not generally desire the type of training for which a liberal arts college was founded.

The education of Negroes is still another phase of American education which developed in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. At an earlier date a beginning had been made in this field, in various parts of the country. As early as 1789 Quakers founded, in Philadelphia, The Society for the Free Instruction of Orderly Blacks and People of Colour. The society set up evening schools.² In 1829 a school was opened in Baltimore to train coloured girls as home-makers and servants.³ Various groups of interested individuals, or religious bodies, established free public schools for Negroes prior to the Civil War. These attempts were few and widely scattered, attracting little attention. As the cataclysm of 1861 drew near, the education of Negroes was violently opposed by anti-abolitionists, who feared that educated Negroes would try to govern the country. Even in New Haven, Connecticut, the proposed establishment of an Academy for Negroes was

1. See First Journal of Minutes of Board of Directors, p. 257.

2. Embree, *Brown America*, p. 61.

3. Woodson, *The Education of the Negro Prior to 1861*, p. 139.

thwarted by this sentiment.¹ Nevertheless, during the first ten years of Sprecher's incumbency at Wittenberg some outstanding Negro schools arose. Avery College, incorporated in 1849, came into being as a result of an estate of \$300,000 left by Charles Avery for the education and Christianization of Negroes. Presbyterians in Pennsylvania founded Asmun Institute for Negroes, which opened its doors in 1856 and was later renamed Lincoln University. Several men banded themselves together to make possible the opening of Berea College in 1859 for the coeducation of negro and white students, in imitation of Oberlin, the first college in the country to attempt this.

In 1856 the Methodist Church incorporated Wilberforce University for Negroes, near Xenia, Ohio, and about eighteen miles from Springfield. This school soon encountered serious financial difficulties. Meanwhile Daniel Alexander Payne, who was part Negro, entered Gettysburg Seminary, where he studied under S. S. Schmucker. After a few years as a Lutheran pastor, he joined the African Methodist Episcopal Church, later becoming a bishop. It was through his efforts that his church purchased Wilberforce University from the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1863. As the head of this institution, he became the first Negro president of a university in the United States.

Some of the most important of the schools for Negroes were established through the American Missionary Association. This association derived its main support from the Congregational church, but other denominations at various times made it their agency for serving the Negroes. It conducted schools from the lowest grade up through college and university, and maintained theological seminaries. Among the more outstanding schools which it organized, either directly or indirectly, are Hampton Institute, Fisk University, Atlanta University and Talladega College.² At a later date Booker T. Washington,

1. Woodson, *op. cit.*, p. 99.

2. The many annual reports of the American Missionary Association give abundant information on this subject.

a product of Hampton Institute, developed at Tuskegee an institution which became outstanding.

By 1872 the governments of the Southern states were providing well enough for the elementary education of Negroes to lead the American Missionary Association to turn most of its resources and talents to secondary and higher education.¹ Thus the first decade in the *post bellum* period found the education of the Negro rapidly assuming a larger place in American cultural life.

Wittenberg never excluded Negroes. Although the school was not founded with any definite idea of affording an education for Negroes, as is true of Oberlin, nevertheless in an unheralded way the gates of the college in Springfield were open to all, regardless of color or race. Ezra Keller opposed slavery and showed deep sympathy for the plight of the colored people in this country. Sprecher did likewise. The spirit of the college has always been one of real interest in people of various races and it has been a matter of deep satisfaction to the faculty and administration that large numbers of foreign students have enrolled in Wittenberg. William McClain, a Negro, was chosen to represent the college in inter-collegiate oratory in the nineteen thirties and brought honor to the school by being the first representative of his race to win the national title.

Another outstanding negro student was Charles L. Hill, B. A. 1928, B.D. '31, S.T.M. '33, who received an exchange scholarship in the University of Berlin and who, after returning to this country, took his doctorate at Ohio State University. For many years he was Dean of Turner Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia. His recently published book entitled, "Locī Communes", is a translation and critical estimate of the writings of Philip Melancthon. He is now pastor of the largest negro church in the South, Bethel A.M.E., Columbia, South Carolina.

1. Compare Beard, *A Crusade of Brotherhood*, p. 197.

It is difficult to ascertain who was the first Negro to become a student at Wittenberg. In the files of the Alumni Association and of the Registrar's office no distinction is made between white or black. Considerable inquiry has brought to light the information that among the first Negro students was Broadwell Chinn, listed as X-1879, who enrolled therefore in 1875. In the late seventies or early eighties William Ewing served in the dual capacity of janitor and student, finally enrolling in the Seminary, where he is listed as a non-graduate of the class of 1891. George W. Elliott enrolled in 1890. Miss Jessie B. Henderson matriculated in 1892 as of the class of 1896. The first touchdown scored on Zimmerman Field was made by a colored student, Ollie Gregory, who is one of the greatest athletes ever to enroll in Wittenberg. He was of the class of 1904.

The thoughts of this chapter have led down many thoroughfares, for the life of any college is, to say the least, complex. But, in looking back at the administration of Sprecher, one is impressed with this fact: he occupied the president's chair at Wittenberg during a quarter of a century when impulses were generated in American life, and policies were formed in the field of education, which were to influence profoundly the lives of educational institutions for many generations.

Chapter VI

The Peril of 1860

Aside from the academic and educational changes affecting Wittenberg, which were discussed in the preceding chapter, few events of lasting importance occurred in Wittenberg's history between 1851 and 1860. Records reveal that a fire of incendiary origin broke out in the cupola of the new college building in January of 1854, on a day when the temperature stood at ten degrees below zero. Students managed to put out the blaze by forming a bucket brigade, from a small cistern at the rear of the building, up to the roof. A hearing in the Mayor's court failed to fix the guilt, but both the fire and the subsequent investigation furnished a subject of conversation in the college and the town.

The fire hazard was ever-present in those days, for heat was supplied by means of a stove in each room. Careless students, permitting their stoves to overheat, frequently caused minor damage to college property.¹ With no fire apparatus available, one wonders that fires of greater consequence did not result. The Prudential Committee learned the lesson of the cupola fire and immediately requested that a new cistern of much larger capacity be installed to provide additional protection from fire.²

The Board Minutes of those years contain a number of

1. See page 267 of First Journal of Board Minutes.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 215.

references to the erection of a fence around the college property. While such a matter seems trivial today, it loomed large in the minds of these early directors. Apparently herds of cattle in the vicinity made such fencing a necessity. Cows were constantly seeking college pastures. Not only did they disturb the campus, but they foraged in the acres set aside by the steward of the dining hall for his vegetable garden. The trees on the campus furnished the timber with which a fence was finally erected around the college grounds, to the satisfaction of all concerned. Another fence set off the garden plots on the western side of the campus. In a day when boundary lines of properties were not too carefully defined, trees and rocks being customary marks of demarcation, a fence had the added value of visibly marking the property line.

Present-day students would find it difficult to imagine their dormitories without running water and shower-baths, but the Wittenberg of *ante-bellum* days, like the entire community of Springfield, possessed no such luxuries. Students trudged up the steps to their rooms with buckets of water for a cold bath in small receptacles. A stream of water running through the campus gave the young men the idea that a bath house with running water might be constructed on the campus. Under the direction of Professor Geiger this was erected. It consisted of a small frame building or shed into which the water was piped by means of a conduit. In the privacy of the college campus, separated from Springfield by groves of trees, students betook themselves to this shed and there reveled in the pleasures of a bath. Cold winter months prevented the use of this convenience, but the hardihood of the men made it possible for them to enjoy the bath house during the major portion of the year.

On a number of occasions the dates of the school year had been discussed and several times they were changed. Keller had advocated a vacation period during August so that students

would not be in attendance during the "fever season." Slowly the end of the school year was advanced, until in 1855 it was placed in the last week of June, where it remained for thirty years. Action on this subject came in 1855 as a result of an earnest plea by Doctor Sprecher to cease delaying a decision and to establish commencement on the last Thursday in June. He urged this action because students were leaving school during the summer months to help in the harvesting of crops. With a forty-week school year closing at the end of June, students would remain in residence until their courses were completed.

Wittenberg, like the vast majority of early American colleges and universities, came into being as a church-related school; therefore many things connected with the history of the institution relate to religious and theological matters. They can be understood only by reference to church history. Such an item is that which occupied the attention of the Board of Directors in March of 1856, and again in June of that year. The matter pertained to the declaration of faith, or religious beliefs, to which all members of the faculty and of the Board of Directors must subscribe. A part of the ceremony of installing a professor was the request that he sign his name to this statement.

Under Doctor Sprecher's guidance the following declaration superseded what had previously prevailed: "I do solemnly declare in the presence of God and this Board, that I do sincerely believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice, and that I do sincerely reject the following errors:

1. The approval of the Ceremonies of the Mass
2. Private Confession and Absolution
3. The denial of the divine obligation of the Christian Sabbath
4. Baptismal Regeneration

5. The real presence of the body and blood of our Saviour in the Eucharist.¹

"And that I do heartily adopt the so-called Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Abstract of the Augsburg Confession."² Doctor Sprecher had preferred the words "American Recension of the Augsburg Confession," but members of the Board were not quite as liberal as their leader. The American Recension had been formulated by Doctor S. S. Schmucker, of The Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg, as an Americanized edition of the primary Lutheran Confession.

Space does not permit a thorough explanation of the controversy which was waged over the issue of an "American Lutheranism" within the General Synod. In brief it may be described thus: Lutherans came to America in Colonial days, and later, from Holland, Norway, Sweden, Germany and other countries. Coming from widely separated regions, they were not in complete accord in the matter of language, rites and practices. Nor did they all agree on the adoption of the same Lutheran symbols, some holding to the Augsburg Confession alone, others confessing all the symbols in the Lutheran Book of Concord. Because of the independence of the various German states, even the different groups of German Lutherans in America did not find themselves in complete agreement. Consequently, one finds in America in the earlier days a great many Lutheran groups, descendants of a number of European races, with varying degrees of loyalty to the Lutheran Confessions. Added to this was the fact that they were cut off from the home base, surrounded by denominations which differed widely both in doctrine and practice from their own religious heritage. There was an absence of Lutheran literature in English. To meet the deficiency, the Lutheran clergy were forced to turn to such authorities, commentaries, and aids in the study of theology as the church around them afforded.

1. By this it was intended to reject the Roman Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation.
2. See First Journal of Wittenberg Board Minutes, p. 317.

They received their knowledge of Lutheran theology second-hand, often through writers loyal to other denominations. The lack of Lutheran schools on this side of the Atlantic made the situation critical. College and often seminary training of Lutheran pastors was received at denominational schools which were not Lutheran. In the midst of such a situation it is not surprising to find the call arising among some of these pastors for an American Lutheranism, one breaking at many points from the spirit of the old Lutheran Church.

The leader of this movement, as has been said, was Doctor S. S. Schmucker, who had been graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary and then had served for many years as head of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He was a man of great talent, whose splendid ability gave to the movement a type of leadership which promoted its advancement. Associated with him was Doctor Benjamin Kurtz, editor of *The Lutheran Observer*. Their efforts culminated in a "Definite Synodical Platform," which was an attempt to unite all Lutherans in America on the basis of the teachings set forth. The document made some concessions to surrounding denominations as an accommodation on the part of the Lutheran Church to the American spirit. It appeared anonymously in 1855, but almost at once it was recognized as the work of Schmucker. Included in the Platform was an American Recension of the Augsburg Confession.

President Sprecher followed the leadership of his former professor¹ in asking the Wittenberg Board of Directors to change the wording of the declaration of faith signed by Wittenberg professors. In March of 1856 his resolution, calling for the change, stated that "it is of the utmost importance that the declaration of doctrinal views required to be made by the Professors of the institution should be as explicit as possible, and the Definite Synodical Platform affords such a pledge."²

1. Sprecher was also a brother-in-law of Schmucker.

2. First Journal of Board Minutes, p. 218.

This desire to state Lutheran beliefs in such a manner as to make them more appealing to the current age met with the full sympathy of Doctor Sprecher. He was wont to criticize what he felt was stagnant scholarship in retaining entirely the statements promulgated in the sixteenth century. On one occasion he expressed disapproval of that frame of mind which would "go no further than the instruments of the Reformation."¹ It seemed to him that the spirit of that earlier day must be retained, but that the scholarship of his age and environment also had its contribution to make. Following customary parliamentary procedure, the resolution proposed by Sprecher was tabled until the next meeting. Of the few small synods which did accept the Definite Platform, two were in Ohio and supported Wittenberg College. Hence, Doctor Sprecher was acting in harmony with the sentiment prevalent on Wittenberg territory.

In June the Board met again. The new pledge was brought from the table and "after considerable discussion" it was voted that "the phrase Abstract of the Augsburg Confession be inserted instead of American Recension of the Augsburg Confession."² If anything is to be read into this change of wording, it is this: that the members of the Wittenberg Board of Directors were not as liberal as their president, being willing to accept a shorter form of the Confession, but not a new or changed form.

If anyone thought that the so-called American Lutheranism would appeal to a majority of the people in the denomination, their opinion was quickly changed upon the appearance of the Platform, for it received little response of a sympathetic nature. While many Lutherans liked it, the majority did not. Soon it was condemned in the strongest language by many synods. With the discrediting of the movement, Sprecher lost

1. This statement, written in his own hand, was found among an assortment of papers which had belonged to Doctor Sprecher. It is taken from a rough draft of an address which he was preparing.

2. First Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 226, 227.

his ardor for tampering with the Augsburg Confession and in later years repudiated his earlier stand.¹ The movement, as it touched Wittenberg, is important here only as further proof that the college and seminary in Springfield held no illusions as to the desirability of retaining foreign customs and culture in America. They were willing to sever unnecessary ties with European countries. While this is true, however, it must also be pointed out that the school was cautious in following the course of contemporary American theology, wishing to retain all that was essential to the true genius of Lutheranism.

Financial conditions in the United States in 1855-1860 were such as to make it extremely difficult to secure donations for the cause of higher education. The Board at its meetings continually devoted much time to a consideration of pecuniary matters. If the shadow of poverty had not always lain upon the activities of the school, its growth and usefulness would have increased immeasurably. The main source of income in those days was student tuition which of itself was far from sufficient to support the school. Great sacrifices on the part of professors and others connected with the institution made it possible to operate on a budget much smaller than could otherwise have been expected. Although the faculty repeatedly asked the Board for additional members in order to lighten the teaching load, its requests were made with a sympathetic understanding of the Board's financial plight, and in no spirit of adverse criticism. Annual grants from the Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education in the West, amounting at this time to one thousand dollars, were a real help in

1. See *Lutheran Evangelist*, May 1, 1891.

meeting expenses.¹ Financial agents were appointed repeatedly to scour the territory for contributions. They sold scholarships wherever possible, bringing in additional funds each year through this means. By practicing frugality all along the line, the college managed to survive.

In the midst of such difficulties, however, a most serious threat to the institution's continued existence in Springfield materialized in the closing months of 1859 and the Spring of 1860. With startling suddenness, news came that the Ohio and Cincinnati Synods of the Presbyterian Church (Old School) wanted to found a university in Ohio and that the members of those Synods had reached harmonious agreement in selecting Springfield as a most favorable site. On no other location could they reach a complete accord. This was a vindication of the Lutherans' earlier choice of the city of Springfield as a suitable community in which to establish Wittenberg College; but it was also a threat to the college. As it was, Wittenberg was having a struggle to extricate itself from financial difficulties. And now the establishment by a stronger sister denomination, of a college right alongside their own institution, seemed to promise only the decline and ultimate decease of Wittenberg.

With gloomy forebodings, the members of the Board of Directors who resided in and near Springfield held an informal meeting with the faculty Prudential Committee on December 21, 1859. The only procedure which gave any hope for

1. Religious education societies began to appear in the United States early in the nineteenth century, in response to the demand for competent missionaries and ministers. Apparently, the idea of forming societies for the education and training of ministers was borrowed from England. The aim of these organizations is made clear by the following paragraph from the initial constitution of the American Education Society, which in 1874 united with the Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education in the West: "Taking into serious consideration the deplorable condition of the inhabitants of these United States, the greater part of whom are either destitute of competent religious instruction or exposed to the errors and enthusiasm of unlearned men, we . . . do hereby . . . form ourselves into a society for the benevolent purpose of aiding, and of exciting others to aid, indigent young men of talents and hopeful piety in acquiring a learned and competent education for the Gospel Ministry." (See appendix A of the annual report of the Society for 1839.) Giving a direct gift or loan to the student was the method most frequently used by such societies. In many instances, however, professors' salaries were paid, chairs in religion were established at colleges, and sometimes buildings were erected.

Wittenberg's future appeared to be the sale of the college buildings and property to the Presbyterians and the reestablishment of Wittenberg College in another locality. Accordingly, the representatives of Wittenberg, meeting on December 21, 1859, decided to approach the Presbyterians in order to determine what offer would be made for the college property. This resulted in the appointing of a joint committee of Presbyterians and Lutherans to appraise the value of the college grounds and buildings. This group, after examining the property, reached an agreement on the sum of \$40,000. Thereupon the Board passed the following resolution:

"That we hereby approve and confirm the position taken by the Prudential Committee of Wittenberg College, as to the location of a University in Springfield by the Ohio and Cincinnati Synods of the Presbyterian Church, to wit, that, while we do not desire to remove our Institution, yet, in view of the injurious consequences to result from the location by our side of the proposed University, we are willing to sell.

"Resolved, that Doctor Sprecher and Messrs. J. D. Martin and R. W. Musgrave be appointed a committee to communicate the foregoing resolution to the committee of the Presbyterian Synods now in session, and to confer with them as to further negotiations on the subject."¹

It is not difficult to imagine the gloom that must have prevailed in that informal Board meeting. The school seemed to be at the cross-roads again. After all the years of heartache and sacrifice, of struggle against manifold difficulties, the Springfield institution appeared to be heading toward complete extinction. True, the college could relocate. But that would entail the task of picking another community, deciding upon a site, carrying out plans for erection of buildings, trying to gain in the new location the loyalty and support of friends, with all the uncertainties of a new undertaking. The mood

1. See First Journal of Wittenberg Board Minutes, p. 317.

of the members of the Board is portrayed in the minutes of the evening session when the whole matter was first discussed. "The evening was spent partly in desultory conversation concerning the wants and the prospects of the College, and farther in social prayer, having a special reference to the negotiations pending between this Board and the Committee of the Presbyterian Synods. At about nine o'clock the Committee of Conference returned from their final interview with the other Committee, and stated what had transpired between them. . . . At a late hour, without arriving at any definite understanding with the Committee of the Presbyterian Synods, the Board finally adjourned."¹

But it must also be said that while despairing of the future of the institution, these men were not going to permit their location to be taken from them without pointing out certain facts. Therefore, when the Presbyterians reported that they desired the Board to name a price at which it was willing to sell, and apparently were not going to offer the college the sum agreed upon by arbitration, this group of directors and faculty members stiffened somewhat. They drew up resolutions which included the following statements:

"Whereas the Arbitration Committee, whose award has been made, was elected by both parties in good faith, with the distinct understanding that the said committee of the Presbyterian Synods ought not to locate their Institution by the side of ours, if they could buy of us at a fair price, and

"Whereas, the arbitration was acceded to by the representatives of Wittenberg College, because of the fact that there was no place that the Synods of the Presbyterian Church could so harmoniously unite upon as this City—Now therefore, be it

"Resolved by the Board of Directors of Wittenberg College, that in view of the premises they would be willing to

1. First Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 320, 321.

accept the sum agreed upon by the Committee of Arbitration rather than suffer the evil consequences of the location of another institution by the side of Wittenberg College.

"Be it also resolved, that, although it was understood by the representatives of Wittenberg College that the Committee of the Presbyterian Synods would be prepared to close at once the bargain on the decision of the Committee on Arbitration, nevertheless we are willing to give a reasonable time to the Committee to ascertain whether they can raise the funds necessary to comply with the said award, in the way stated before the Arbitration Committee, namely, one third in cash, and the remaining two thirds in two consecutive annual payments.

"And be it further resolved, that we hold the Committee of the Presbyterian Synods, under the circumstances of this award, obligated not to locate their Institution in this City if they cannot accept and comply with said award, and that the offer to take the sum named by the Arbitration Committee is made with this distinct understanding, and not otherwise."¹

When the results of these informal sessions were reported to the entire Board at its next regular meeting in March of 1860, the matter received much deliberate consideration. The entire proceedings of the December meetings between the College representatives and the Presbyterians were reviewed. Professor Geiger was then asked to tell of the negotiations, since the time of these informal meetings, between the Prudential Committee and the Joint Committee of the Presbyterian Synods. Professor Geiger responded by reading the following letter, written on December 30, 1859, by R. Rodgers of Springfield:

Prof. Geiger, Chairman of
Prudential Com. of W. C.

Dear Sir—

As secretary of the Joint Committee of the Synods of

1. First Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 318, 319.

Ohio and Cincinnati, I am instructed to furnish the Authorities of Wittenberg College with a copy of the following Resolutions, adopted at the late meeting of the com. held in this City on Thursday of last week—

- Res. 1st. That in view of all the circumstances, the location of our College, in Springfield, must be contingent upon the purchase of Wittenberg College, provided it can be had upon reasonable terms.
- 2nd. That in estimating the price to be paid for Wittenberg College, there should be a discount to the amount of all that Springfield has heretofore given in land or money.
- 3rd. That in our judgment — after making proper deductions, the property should be purchased for Thirty Thousand Dollars.¹
- 4th. That this committee will proceed to establish our College in Springfield, provided the citizens of Springfield and Clark Co. will raise an amount which will secure the transfer of W. C. to us.²

Respectfully,
(signed) R. Rodgers

Two points in this letter made it evident that negotiations might fall through. First, the Presbyterians promised not to come to Springfield unless Wittenberg College could be purchased; yet they were unwilling to pay the price which had been agreed upon. Secondly, Springfield, itself, would have to provide the cash required for the transaction, thus placing further contingency upon the entire plan.

Professor Geiger thought that in view of the facts stated in this letter no further negotiations were practicable "until the issue established by the second resolution above was settled between the Presbyterian Committee and the Citizens of

1. This would have meant a double deduction, from the sale price, of the amount previously contributed by Springfield. Professor Geiger pointed out to all concerned that when \$40,000 had been agreed upon, that sum had been determined after proper deductions for Springfield contributions had been allowed.

2. First Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 321, 322.

Springfield.”¹ As the Board of Directors concurred in this opinion, the whole subject was tabled indefinitely. Thereupon, that session of the Board was devoted to a discussion “concerning the urgent necessity of pressing forward the work of endowing the Institution, so as to relieve it from its present embarrassments, for want of an adequate income, and to increase the number of teachers.”² Evidently these men were not going to be frightened away from the Springfield location as easily as it had once appeared, and the threat to the college only increased their determination to promote with zeal the best interests of Wittenberg.

In the early part of October, 1860, supporters of Wittenberg read in the newspapers that the Cincinnati Synod of the Presbyterian Church had resolved to locate their proposed university in Springfield and had called upon the Synods of Ohio and Sandusky to cooperate in the venture. This looked like the final step, but it was met unflinchingly by friends of Wittenberg. Knowing that the Ohio Synod of the Presbyterian Church would meet in Cincinnati on the 20th of October, the Honorable J. D. Martin of Lancaster, chairman of the Prudential Committee, and Professor Geiger attended the meeting. There they made an earnest plea on behalf of Wittenberg’s interests as guaranteed in previous discussion with the Presbyterians. They likewise entered a protest against the establishment of another, and competing, institution of higher learning in the city of Springfield. But “after much discussion the Synod, by a majority of those who voted, although a minority of the members present, determined to concur in the action of the Cincinnati Synod.”³

At this moment the cause of Wittenberg seemed dark. Yet the threatening clouds ultimately blew over. The Civil War made it impossible to raise large sums of money for any

1. First Journal of Board Minutes, p. 322.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 337.

3. First Journal of Board Minutes, p. 370.

such venture as the founding of a college. Furthermore, the intentions on the part of the Presbyterian Synods gradually gave way to a recognition of the right of Wittenberg to be the sole college in Springfield. After this Cincinnati meeting, the supporters of Wittenberg considered the matter closed, and waited for the next move to come from the other side. The statements presented to the Presbyterian groups at different times by representatives of Wittenberg bore more fruit than those representatives realized. Springfield came to be less inviting to the Presbyterian leaders, who found that financial support was not materializing for them in the city while other communities were eager to invite the proposed school to their locality. Finally, with the establishment of the College of Wooster, chartered in 1866, opened in 1870, in the community where Wittenberg was first chartered, the Presbyterians of this state had a college behind which to unite their efforts. From 1860 onward Wittenberg has become more and more firmly established as a Springfield institution.

That the college had faced a real threat cannot be denied, but in the providence of God the struggling college had passed the crisis safely. With the approach of the Civil War, the attention of Springfield citizens and Wittenberg supporters alike was quickly switched to the coming national conflict.

Chapter VII

War Years and Reconstruction

Much excitement developed throughout the United States prior to the presidential election of 1860 which raised Abraham Lincoln to the office of chief executive. Slavery had become the major issue, with the entire country debating the subject. Northern opinion had reached a point of intense bitterness, while in the South threats of secession were receiving increasing expression. Such incidents as John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry helped to arouse emotions both North and South. The secession of South Carolina and the formation of the Confederate Government in the winter of 1860-1861 brought about a divided country prior to Lincoln's inauguration. One of his first acts as president was to issue a call for troops to bring back the seceders.

With such events disturbing the nation's life and making the future uncertain, it is surprising that large numbers of young people turned to colleges and universities to enter upon a course of study. Yet Wittenberg began the school year of 1860-1861 with one of the largest enrolments in its history, when 158 students matriculated. This encouraging state of affairs was short-lived, however, for in mid-winter of that year an epidemic of smallpox broke out in Springfield. As this disease was greatly feared, a number of students returned to

their homes to avoid possible contagion. When one of the collegians became ill with it, he was confined in a small frame building, erected temporarily on the campus for that purpose, and the other students were dismissed. As news of the small-pox epidemic spread throughout the territory, some of the young men contemplating enrollment at the Springfield institution changed their minds, and others who had attended did not return from the enforced vacation.

The outbreak of the national conflict, and its effects upon Wittenberg, came as a climax to the other ills of the disappointing school year of 1860-1861. Its location in Ohio spared Wittenberg many of the experiences suffered during the Civil War by the sister institution at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where armies waged their battles back and forth over the school grounds, institutional buildings were pressed into service as a hospital, and shot and shell caused destruction to college grounds. But, while buildings and grounds at Wittenberg remained intact, the effects of war were felt in other ways. The struggling college, hardly able to withstand previous storms, now had to gird itself to meet the turmoil of war years. The enrollment, already depleted by the smallpox scare, continued to drop as students answered the call to the colors.

Ezra Keller, founder of Wittenberg, had possessed strong anti-slavery feelings. His sentiment had prevailed in the life of the institution, and was continued under Sprecher's influence. Loyalty to the "men in blue" was pronounced. News of the events that were taking place on the field of battle proved disconcerting to students attempting to concentrate upon studies. Even the president was caught in the quickening fervor of the times. He has been pictured as doffing his professorial dignity to drill students on the campus, putting them through the regimen of "Shoulder arms! Present arms!

Port Arms! Order arms!"¹ Even though this may be an exaggeration, the news of the spirit prevailing on Wittenberg's campus was carried afar. It is recorded that "one of the principal papers at the seat of government . . . made most honorable mention of our institution as an example of patriotism in the colleges of Ohio."²

The faculty report to the Board in June of 1861 stated that "The spirit of patriotic devotion which prevails in the Institution led some of the students to feel that in obedience to their country's call they ought to enlist in the war. Some of our most pious and promising young men are consequently in the army."³ Sixty-five students, out of the small student body at Wittenberg, saw service in the Civil War. Still others were prevented from attending college by the increased demand for their services on the farms and in the factories. Ohio now had twenty-four colleges, all seeking to persuade students to matriculate. All were hard hit at this time. Denison's enrollment dropped from sixty-three to twenty-five. The strongest colleges in the nation found their student ranks badly depleted.

The curtailment of enrollment made the financial condition of Wittenberg acute. For several years the overburdened faculty had requested additional staff members. The Board, while sympathetic, did not have the funds with which to hire even one additional professor. The war brought economic difficulties to the nation which raised considerably the cost of living. The price of such staple commodities as pork, corn and sugar increased three-fold. Professors' salaries, already low, were now intolerable. Finally, in 1863, the Board was forced to do what it had wanted to do previously but felt was impossible, namely, to increase the salaries of the faculty.

This action came as the climax to several years of intense

1. He is thus depicted in the historical pageant commemorating Wittenberg's Ninetieth Anniversary.

2. Second Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 2, 3.

3. First Journal of Board Minutes, p. 378.

activity directed toward securing financial aid for Wittenberg. Already in 1860 a long session of the Board had been devoted to discussion of the college's financial plight. At that time a plan was evolved whereby a society should be formed throughout the territory of the College for the purpose of raising the full endowment of the institution. Details of the plan were to be worked out by the Prudential Committee. On the eleventh of March the committee met with a few friends of the institution to organize the Wittenberg College Endowment Society. That same evening a constitution was adopted, and S. A. Bowman was elected to the presidency of the Society.

The Board of Directors, in June of 1860, acted favorably upon a recommendation of the Society that the duties of their corresponding secretary should be combined with those of the financial agent of the Board. Financial agents seldom held their position long. The work was too difficult and the recompense meager. The only report given by the Reverend J. H. Heck is typical of the information presented by these agents who worked for the organization of auxiliary societies to the Wittenberg College Endowment Society. It reveals the membership of some of the Lutheran churches in Ohio eighty-five years ago, as well as their liberality.¹

Name of Charge	Number of Church Members	Subscriptions
Bellefontaine	125	\$110.00
St. Paris	200	60.00
Tiffin	113	20.00
Findlay	106	100.00
Upper Sandusky	180	40.00
Arcadia	71	56.00
Wooster	107	171.00
New Philadelphia	245	75.00
Millersburg	200	85.00

1. See First Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 372, 373.



DR. J. H. W. STUCKENBERG



DR. H. R. GEIGER

Greenville and Washingtonville	300	120.00
New Middletown	127	40.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	1774	\$877.00

Other agents succeeded in securing pledges from other congregations in the area, but there was a wide discrepancy between pledges made and pledges paid. Promises of contributions were apparently made in good faith, but the actual return on such promises was often disappointing. Most subscriptions were made payable ten years from date of pledging, and changed financial conditions of the nation at the time the payment became due, often made it impossible for an individual to pay the amount he had pledged.

In 1864 the initial receipt of a sizable sum of money came through a new, concerted effort to increase the endowment. At first the question of conducting a campaign to secure funds with which to endow a chair of theology was raised. Both Keller and Sprecher had combined the duties of that professorship with the office of president. When the Reverend F. W. Conrad came as a second professor of theology in 1850, his call stipulated that he was to serve part-time as financial agent. Thus the school had at no time enjoyed a full-time professor of theology. In the Board meeting of June 24, 1863, a motion was passed, asking the pastors on the territory to encourage the establishment of a chair of theology. October 31, Reformation Day, was suggested as the most suitable date for preaching on the need of such a chair at Wittenberg.

The sum to be sought in the proposed financial campaign rapidly enlarged in the minds of the Board members. Several times the subject was reconsidered, with the result that a greater goal than the endowment of a chair of theology was agreed upon. It was voted "to take immediate steps to raise a fund sufficient to fully and permanently endow the institution,"

and that "a committee be appointed to report a plan for carrying out the . . . resolution." the committee to consist of "Reverends Steck and Inihoff and Mr. Erkenbrecker."¹ This motion sought to undergird the whole financial structure of the institution.

It did not take the committee long to bring back a report to the Board. Of several items recommended, the most important one was that calling for a convention of the friends of the institution "to meet at Dayton, upon the adjournment of the Miami Synod in June next."² This recommendation was adopted with the following additions: that Doctor Sprecher should deliver an address on behalf of the college at this proposed convention; that the president and secretary should issue the call for this convention at Dayton; that the Prudential Committee should prepare a circular in reference to the coming convention, sending it to the congregations connected with the college. As business sessions continued, the eagerness of the men to make this convention a success led to further motions. It was resolved: "That the brethren of the Board open correspondence with their friends and brethren in the Church, and urge the subject of the convention upon them. . . . That Brothers Steck, J. Gebhart and B. M. Beaver be appointed a special committee of arrangements for the convention at Dayton. . . . That Doctor Sprecher be requested to write a series of articles for the *Lutheran Observer* in behalf of Wittenberg College and the proposed convention . . . that Brother Bowman write one or more articles for the *Observer* in reference to the convention."³ Before adjourning, the Board authorized another convention to be called by the Prudential Committee in Springfield, in connection with the meeting of the Wittenberg Synod in August, 1864.⁴

1. Second Journal of Board Minutes, p. 35.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 36.

3. Second Journal of Board Minutes, p. 38.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 55.

The first convention of the college, held for the purpose of raising funds, opened in the First Lutheran Church, Dayton, Ohio, on the afternoon of June 14, 1864. J. D. Martin of Lancaster and Alexander Gebhart of Dayton were appointed chairman and secretary respectively. After a number of speeches had been made to inform and inspire the assembly, a committee was appointed to report upon a plan for the endowment of the college. This committee stated that in their judgment "the time has come when the Institution should be established on the basis contemplated by its founders and set forth in its constitution, and that the sum of one hundred thousand dollars additional endowment will be required to consummate the plan of its founders."¹

It is evident that this convention aroused devotion to Wittenberg. When the chairman called for subscriptions, eleven men respond with pledges totalling thirty thousand dollars. Six members of the Gebhart family subscribed twenty-one thousand dollars of the total. By the time of the Board meeting in March, 1865, the financial agent, the Reverend J. Crouse, was able to report a total of \$64,319.14. By 1866 the College Endowment Fund was reported to exceed ninety-five thousand dollars. In 1868, when a portion of Wittenberg property was sold to the newly platted cemetery, lying to the west of the college, the money from this sale swelled the endowment fund to \$107,000.00. Although a portion of this was in the form of "notes" given by donors, and the increase in endowment income was by no means sufficient to meet all of the college's requirements, for the first time since its inception the institution was able to enjoy a short period of life without the threat of financial disaster. Those who led the school gained confidence and took new courage. Students seeking admission were required to meet a higher standard of prepara-

1. *Ibid.*, pp. 56, 57.

tion, and the educational standing of the institution was improved.

President Sprecher's report to the Board meeting of June, 1865, included the following paragraph: "In view of the position which the college should occupy as an endowed institution . . . the faculty feel that the time has come to enforce more strictly the requirements of our standard of education in regard to the qualifications of students who apply for admission into the several college classes or for graduation. We have, therefore, determined to subject all applicants for admission into the freshman class to a more thorough and rigid examination, and if necessary to require them to pass through a college course in the Preparatory Department. The prospect of this test has already had a marked and decidedly good effect."¹

Although Wittenberg suffered a decreased enrollment for a few years while students enlisted in the Civil War, not all such students were lost to the college. Before the conflict came to a close, a few students, discharged from the army, returned to their studies. For several years following Lee's surrender, young men who had seen service in the army were members of various college classes.

With the end of the war, Wittenberg resumed its slow, steady growth. The last ten years of Doctor Sprecher's presidency were a time of increasing strength and of rising faculty prestige. In that decade a great many men who were to rise to positions of leadership, and, in some instances, to serve the college for long periods of time, identified themselves with the institution. In 1864 the Reverend S. A. Ort, a Wittenberg graduate, serving at that time on the faculty of Hagerstown Female Seminary, became a tutor in the Preparatory Department. Later he was advanced to professor of mathematics and eventually became the fourth president of Wittenberg. In

1. Second Journal of Board Minutes, p. 67.

1865 the Reverend Joel Swartz of Baltimore was elected to the chair of pastoral theology. The following year the Reverend B. F. Prince, of the class of 1865, was chosen to teach in the Preparatory Department. Two years later he taught ancient languages and in 1869 became professor of history, assistant professor of Greek, and principal of the Preparatory Department. His connection with Wittenberg College was to continue in various capacities, including that of vice president, until his death in 1933. Few men in American life can lay claim, as he could, to sixty-seven years of service to an educational institution. J. H. W. Stuckenberg, one of Wittenberg's most distinguished alumni, began an eight-year tenure of service in 1873, accepting a call to the chair of sacred philology. Pen portraits of some of the faculty members of this period in Wittenberg's history appear upon subsequent pages of this volume. These men already mentioned, together with Professor Geiger, Sprecher and Ehrenfeld, gave the institution a strong group of professors who possessed an adequate knowledge of their fields and were gifted with a special talent for teaching.

Improvements to the building and grounds of Wittenberg took place in the summer of 1866. Money for this purpose had been secured from citizens of Springfield six years earlier by three Wittenberg professors who canvassed the city to solicit funds. A slate roof was laid on top of the shingle roof of the college building, interior woodwork was painted, and the exterior walls were greatly improved in appearance by the application of paint. The chapel, which was proving inadequate to accommodate the student body, was enlarged. As all students were required to attend chapel services daily in that period of Wittenberg's history, an enlarged chapel was a necessity.

A further step was now taken toward the completion of

the original plan for the front of the building. Stone steps and a platform of stone were laid at this time. Years later, the massive pillars which give the building dignity were to be added, thereby completing the plans drawn at the time the building was erected.

The roadway running from the entrance to the college grounds up to the school building was improved also. Professor B. F. Prince, who had been a student in the college prior to this road improvement, has written these comments on the need for the changes which were made: "The main improvement on the grounds was the building of a roadway. Before anything was done at the entrance to the campus, the grade from the foot of the path to the college building was fifty-six feet in a distance of about six hundred feet. This path was for foot passengers, but not for teams. By a somewhat circular road teams made their way to the top of the hill. But there was no prepared and fixed roadway; hence in wet and slippery weather it became almost impossible to make the trip. In the early days when wood was the common article of fuel, many a teamster had his temper sorely tried when he attempted to get his team to climb the hill and draw a load of cordwood after it. The language used on such occasions was more forceful than elegant. It may be stated that the students provided their own wood which was stacked in individual piles at the rear of the college building, where with saw and axe it was prepared for the stove and then carried by the owners to their individual rooms. This was good exercise for the boys though it did not come in such a form as to be relished. Coal as a fuel was introduced into regular use by the college boys about 1870. It was cheaper than wood and did not involve so much labor."¹

Some rugby football was played by men in the second

1. See pp. 160, 161 of Professor Prince's manuscript in the college archives.

decade of Wittenberg's history. In 1860 cricket was introduced and student support was strong enough to keep a Cricket Club in existence until 1874. Students of this early era enjoyed playing croquet on the campus. In the first half century of college life baseball proved to be by far the most popular sport of Wittenbergers.

At the annual meeting of the Board of Directors in June of 1868, the report of the faculty contained the following statements: "The Revd. Prof. Broadfischer has the honor of having taken the initiative in the establishment of scholarship prizes, having founded a scholarship prize for the best scholar in the sub-Freshman class. We hope this movement will become general, that many will go and do likewise."¹ Today Wittenberg is fortunate in having a number of these awards to grant to students, but there is need for more of them, as the college does not compare too favorably with other strong colleges in this respect.

Expansion of the college library became another interest of the leaders at Wittenberg. They were anxious to put at the disposal of the students a collection of books adequate to develop their knowledge in any of the fields of study offered by the institution. Up to this time the literary societies owned several thousand books in their own name, but those accessible in the school library were insufficient. Progress was necessarily slow, but with renewed interest in this project the number of books was gradually increased. A more rapid rate of accession was made possible a little later when a fee of one dollar per year was assessed each student for the purpose of obtaining new books. Soon Wittenberg's library compared more favorably with those of other colleges in the state. However, throughout its history the faculty and friends of the school have dreamed of a library more than adequate to its immediate

1. Second Journal of Board Minutes, p. 156.

academic needs. They long for the satisfaction of possessing an accumulation of books in which the institution may take distinctive pride. Those who are zealous for Wittenberg's scholastic prestige are hopeful of a sizable gift from some source in the future which will make this dream materialize.

The first paper to be published by students at Wittenberg was *The Excelsior Visitor*, issued by the Excelsior Literary Society throughout the school year 1851-1852. Twenty-two years¹ later two students in the Theological Department, J. C. Kauffman and S. S. Waltz, who saw the need for a student publication, gained permission from the Board of Directors to edit a literary journal with the name of *The Wittenberger*. For a number of years this monthly took the place in student life now filled by *The Torch*, weekly student publication; and its name is still retained as the title of the college annual. Since 1873 student journalism has been encouraged at Wittenberg by means of various publications which have been a credit to the institution.

Earliest attempts of the alumni to organize, in order to strengthen Wittenberg, did not meet with success; but after gaining experience from their failures, the early leaders in this effort made a notable contribution to the Alma Mater which they had grown to love. As a result of discussions held annually by the alumni when they returned for commencement, the movement to organize the graduates took definite form in 1869. The first president of the group was J. B. Helwig, a Lutheran minister in Springfield, who was later to become the third president of Wittenberg. The proposal of the graduates to contribute five hundred dollars to the current expenses of the school and eventually to raise enough money to endow a

1. During this twenty-two year period the campus was not always barren of journalistic ventures. In June, 1863, *The Flying Dutchman* appeared. It was a scandal sheet which lasted only a short time. In 1866 *The Flying Dutchman's Pap* was printed. In 1869 *The Flying Dutchman* reappeared. It went to such extremes of faculty caricature and questionable journalism that the faculty ordered its demise. A few copies are still available. They are provocative of laughter but seem to justify the faculty's decision.

professorship was encouraging to a Board of Directors trying desperately to run an institution without adequate funds. After a year, however, it was clearly seen that a stronger form of organization was necessary; consequently, what had been an alumni group was now expanded to include friends of the college. A stock company was organized which anyone could join by the purchase of stock at one hundred dollars per share. Those who made such a purchase, or pledged themselves to do so and then paid interest until the promise was fulfilled, were entitled to vote. A carefully devised constitution furnished the guiding rules for this group. Material aid was soon forthcoming, to the deep satisfaction of all friends of Wittenberg, and for many years this group aided in the support of the chair of modern languages, a chair which was established at their request, to meet the demands of the times in its trend from ancient to modern tongues.¹

In 1872 a little more than four acres of ground were added to the college campus by an agreement with the owner, Mr. David Hawley. He transferred the property to the college with the understanding that he should receive \$320.00 annually from Wittenberg for the rest of his life.² This is the area on which the Health and Physical Education Building and a part of the athletic field are now located. There were buildings on the land at the time it was given to Wittenberg; thus the annuity gift was a substantial one and has been useful to the college.

In June of 1872 the subject of finances, which for a time had not been receiving as much attention as previously, came

1. The funds of the Association were held by Dr. B. F. Prince as Treasurer and were kept separate from general college funds. In some years the income was transferred to the college as a contribution toward the support of a chair; in other years it was added to the principal. The fund eventually reached a total of approximately \$36,000. In 1930, the Association proposed that the principal be turned over to the college. In accepting the transfer of the fund, the Board of Directors added approximately \$14,000 from the general assets of the institution and established the "Alumni Association Foundation", with a principal of \$50,000, the income to be used toward the support of a professorship to be selected from time to time by the Board of Directors. At the present time the chair of History is thus partially supported.
2. Compare Second Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 229, 230.

to the fore again. Alexander Gebhart's annual report to the Board of Directors, as treasurer, was a gloomy one. In summary it read as follows:

Disbursements	
On General Expense Account	\$1482.65
On Salary Account	7826.59
On Interest Account	71.74

	\$9380.98

Receipts	
On Interest Account	\$3108.21 ¹
On Assessment	13.50
On Tuition, Room Rent, etc.	2728.50

DEFICIT	\$3530.77

Though the school was operating on a very modest budget, the requirement of salaries alone exceeded total receipts by thirty-three per cent. One of two things had to be done at once: either reduce expenditures or secure additional funds. The Board chose the latter course. Indeed, with a pressing need for a larger number of professors, and with faculty salaries lower than at many other educational institutions, there really was no other alternative. Therefore, "it was moved and carried that an immediate effort be made by this Board to add at least one hundred thousand dollars to our present Endowment Fund, and that in order to do this, Doctor Sprecher be requested, in connection with such persons as he may select, to visit such places and hold such conventions as may seem desirable to secure this result."²

No sooner had this decision been reached than it became known that President Sprecher had received a call to the faculty of the Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

1. In view of interest rates current at the time, this figure reveals clearly the meager amount of productive endowment then possessed by the institution.

2. Second Journal of Board Minutes, p. 237.

His departure would do more than disrupt the campaign just voted upon; it would remove from Wittenberg at a critical time the one man whose services were most essential. But the president rose above self-interest, and with profound relief the directors heard Sprecher state that he was declining this call. This was not the only time that friends of Wittenberg College were uneasy over the prospects of losing Doctor Sprecher, for he had other opportunities to accept more desirable positions. This sterling character had dedicated his life to the Springfield institution, and even after resigning from the presidency, he remained there many years in the capacity of professor of theology, until advancing age forced him to retire.

Doctor Sprecher was of the opinion at that time that a more centrally located seminary would serve the East and Middle West as well. To conserve teachers he was willing to end the training of ministerial students at Wittenberg upon the completion of their college course, and send such students to Gettysburg Seminary, with a view toward moving that seminary farther west in the near future. He convinced others of the wisdom of this plan. Therefore, with Board approval, he dispatched the following telegram, declining the call to Gettysburg: "The Board feels that my resignation of the presidency of the College, and my removal to Gettysburg, would be fatal to its prosperity. At the same time, they fully appreciate the importance of a concentration of our theological interests, and have resolved to suspend, for the present, our Theological Department, and to send our theological students to your Seminary.¹ As this action secures the interests both of our College and of the consolidation of theological teaching, I feel it my duty to sacrifice my desire to be devoted to theological instruction, and to decline your call for the present;

1. The arrangement to dispense with the Theological Department did not last long. For one year the students of theology went to various schools for their seminary training, but at a Board meeting in June 1873, it was voted to hire an additional professor in this department. A number of former seminary students thereupon returned to complete their theological training at Wittenberg.

but if, within a reasonable length of time, the Seminary could be removed to a central location, the impediments to my accepting the call would be removed.”¹

The decision of Sprecher to remain at the head of the college is evidence of the man's consecration and devotion to his work. He was then sixty-three years of age. He had been at the helm during the difficult and trying times of war and the years which followed. The office of president would bring unusual hardships in the months immediately ahead because of the campaign for funds which he was to direct in person. Gettysburg offered a rest from physical toil and the many heavy responsibilities which the office of college president laid upon the incumbent. It is to be noted that in his declination he gave the hint that before long an opportunity to retire from his office would be appealing. Meanwhile he gave himself without restraint to the cause of building a stronger Wittenberg.

1. Second Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 242, 243.



MYERS HALL

Chapter VIII

Sprecher Retires from the Presidency

Relieved of his duties as professor of the theological department during the school year 1872-1873, Samuel Sprecher turned the major share of his attention to increasing Wittenberg's endowment. He covered thousands of miles in visiting churches and individuals within the Wittenberg territory. He himself was so thoroughly convinced of the pressing need for a strong church-related college, that his contact with other men resulted in their seeing the value of such an institution. And as these individuals were persuaded of the contribution which young people trained under such an environment would make to the life of the church and nation, subscriptions to the campaign began to materialize in large amounts. So successful was Sprecher in his efforts that by the spring of the following year he could announce that pledges totalling \$84,940.00 had been made. In this effort he received the cooperation of others, principally that of the Reverend J. Crouse, financial agent, and Alexander Gebhart, treasurer of the college. As none of the pledges was binding until the full goal of one hundred thousand dollars had been subscribed, members of the five church synods supporting Wittenberg,¹ on behalf of their respective synods, pledged the remaining \$15,000.00. When these

1. By this time the following synods assumed some measure of the support of Wittenberg, and elected representatives to the Board of Directors: Wittenberg Synod, Miami Synod, Northern Indiana Synod, East Ohio Synod, and the Olive Branch Synod.

synods met, one by one, in annual session, they assumed the obligation which had been made by their representatives.

Thus, in one year's time, the goal of one hundred thousand dollars had been reached as far as pledges were concerned. The news was cheering to everyone, for it appeared that the institution was entering an era of increased strength and prestige. Some of the crying needs of the school were to be met immediately. The Prudential Committee having reported that a brick boarding house, fifty by thirty feet, two floors high, with small kitchens attached, could be built for twenty-three hundred dollars, it was voted to erect such a building. This, as well as some other projects, fell by the wayside when the financial panic of 1873 wiped out the fortunes of many individuals, and returns on the pledges made in the campaign were disappointing. •

First reports had put new life in the college leaders. Members of the Board of Directors, determined to strengthen the school in every way possible, convened in a special session on August 19, 1873. This was one of the most important meetings of the Board in the history of Wittenberg. Actions of far-reaching effect were taken.

It was voted to reopen the Theological Department, completely restoring Wittenberg to the conception of her founders.

The report of a special committee, which had met six times to consider with great care the division and arrangement of professorships, was given approval. This established the following chairs:

- 1 — The presidency and professorship of Christian Theology.
- 2 — The professorship of Sacred Philology.
- 3 — The professorship of Ecclesiastical History.
- 4 — The professorship of Natural Sciences.
- 5 — The professorship of Ancient Languages.
- 6 — The professorship of English Literature and Belles-lettres.

7 — The professorship of Mathematics.

8 — Principalship of the Preparatory Department.

This action was highly important. It resulted in a revision of courses, in a rearrangement of professorships, and in the creation of new chairs, all of which led to more natural, and clearer, divisions and a more effective teaching program.

The election of J. H. W. Stuckenberg to the chair of Sacred Philology greatly strengthened the faculty because he was a man of strength and a proven scholar. More will be said of him on later pages.

Provision was made for more careful accounting of expenditures. The chairman of the Prudential Committee was named by the Board to become the auditor of the college, with the stipulation that no monies were to be paid out of the treasury except upon his order, following action by the Prudential Committee. At the same meeting, it was declared that colored students should be admitted at the discretion of the faculty.

At the Board meeting in June, 1874, a revolutionary action was taken, in the decision that women should be admitted as students. The faculty report presented at that time expressed the belief that the time had come when the institution should be opened to people "of all colors and of both sexes."¹ The report barely mentioned color but made extended remarks concerning admission of women. Upon the recommendation of its committee upon the report of the faculty, the Board passed a resolution authorizing the admission of women to the college.

1. The following school year a Negro applied for admission, and the faculty did not know whether they could admit him. Seeking a ruling on the matter, they came to the Board. The Directors passed no motion on the subject as they thought that the stand of the college on the question of race was perfectly clear—people of any color were welcome to Wittenberg. Thus Negroes were admitted, not by any alteration of rules, but by declaration that the college did not believe in racial discrimination. Thereupon a colored boy who had graduated from Springfield High School entered in 1875. He was followed by others, although Wittenberg has never had more than a few colored students at any one time.

In the fall of 1874, Wittenberg became co-educational. This step removed the last barrier to the matriculation of any one properly qualified by previous schooling, for college work. Mixed education won the favor of the Board because it seemed to them to be a growing tendency among colleges and universities. They saw it, also, as a means of increasing the enrollment of the college at a time when the student body was smaller than they wished it to be.

The question of fraternities now rose to prominence at Wittenberg because a group of students petitioned for the removal of such organizations.¹ Phi Kappa Psi was the first fraternity at the college, the Springfield chapter having been granted a charter in 1866. The following year Beta Theta Pi established a chapter on Wittenberg's campus. As the fraternity system had not become firmly established, there were critics who hoped to see the societies eliminated. When rivalry between the two Greek letter groups at Wittenberg became quite tense in 1874, opponents of fraternities thought they saw an opportunity to put an end to their existence on the Springfield campus. Accordingly, a group of thirty-seven students signed a petition, asking the Board of Directors to abolish fraternities at the Lutheran institution.

A special committee of the Board was appointed to consider the matter and bring back recommendations. This was their report: "Your committee offers the following: 1st. A petition to the Faculty and Board of Directors of Wittenberg College, signed by thirty-seven students of the institution. Said petition sets forth that there are at the present time in the

1. Today, College Greek-letter societies are a widely accepted, traditional part of American college life. The first such organization, Phi Beta Kappa, dates from 1776, the year of the struggle for independence. Founded at William and Mary College in Virginia, Phi Beta Kappa later turned from a social group to an honorary fraternity, with membership bestowed in recognition of high scholastic attainment. It is now considered the highest undergraduate honor of national recognition. Throughout the nineteenth century many other Greek letter fraternities and sororities were founded, spreading into the colleges of the country. Today there are several such societies which can boast of having chapters on more than one hundred campuses, and a number of fraternities have celebrated their first century of life. So rapid has been the development of fraternities in the twentieth century that organizations established since 1900 outnumbered those founded in the preceding one hundred twenty-four years.

College organizations known as secret fraternities. The petitioners allege that these organizations claim to be and do make of themselves a select class and create a spirit of caste which is maintained throughout the entire course and is carried into every department and association of college life. They further allege that these fraternities perpetuate acts of injustice, propagate hatred and personal strife to an extent intolerable to the petitioners. The petitioners therefore pray the Board and Faculty to take such measures as will remove these evils.

"2nd. Communications from the authorities of the University of Lewisburg, Pa.; Denison University, Granville, O.; Yale College, New Haven, Conn.; Western Reserve College, Hudson, O.; Marietta College, Marietta, O.; Amherst College, Mass.; Oberlin College, Oberlin, O.; Mt. Union College, Mt. Union, Ohio. In all but two of these communications, secret fraternities are unqualifiedly condemned and in all of them they are deprecated for reasons too numerous to be specified in this report.

"3rd. Communications from Reverends Hufferd and N. J. McKnight and Mr. N. R. Gault in which the fraternities are condemned.

"4th. A Catalogue of Franklin and Marshall College in which secret fraternities are condemned as the bane of college literary societies, to many of which the said fraternities have virtually put an end. Your committee submits the following:

"Whereas, there is reason to believe that secret fraternities in college are of very questionable utility, therefore Resolved, that this Board heartily disapprove of the introduction of secret fraternities into the College as detrimental to the highest interests of the institution, and hereby express the hope that those who are in these fraternities will not labor to perpetuate them and that new students coming to the institution will only unite

with the recognized literary societies of the College."¹

Though the petitioners had stated their case in the strongest possible terms, many would have disputed their charges as unfounded. In spite of the introduction of fraternities, Wittenberg's literary societies were to continue for another half-century.² Beta Theta Pi, one of the two fraternities at Wittenberg at the time of the petition, has chapters at Denison University and Yale College, two of the schools mentioned as opposing such societies. Fraternity men are aware of the fact that at Amherst College, mentioned in the petition as anti-fraternity, Calvin Coolidge, as a student, identified himself with Phi Gamma Delta, which was later to establish a chapter at Wittenberg. The degree of cooperation which a college enlists from the fraternities on its campus is a large factor in determining the worth of their contribution to a student's development.

This petition of the thirty-seven students was presented at the beginning of a period when the increase of Greek-letter secret societies was to be most rapid, resulting in the chartering of such organizations in more than six hundred schools. Such action as a voiced disapproval on the part of the Board was not sufficient to stop fraternities at Wittenberg from continuing their existence, and later new groups were organized. There is much to be said on behalf of fraternities; and though the subject is still debated in some places, the system is firmly established now. National fraternities have revised their requirements of local chapters, causing some undesirable features to be dropped and putting greater stress on scholarship and the development of the individual. Among the distinguished alumni of Wittenberg, a great majority hold membership in a Greek-letter society.

1. Second Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 277-279.

2. It was not the fraternity system, but the rise of speech departments and intercollegiate contests in oratory and debate which led to the extinction of college literary societies.

At the Board meeting in June, 1874, Professor B. F. Prince was elected professor of natural history and assistant professor of Greek; and the Reverend S. A. Ort, professor of Mathematics and assistant professor in the department of Mental and Moral Science. But the most important change in the faculty came with the resignation of Doctor Sprecher, who had now reached the decision that his term as president must end because of advancing age. A younger man, he thought, would be able to meet the physical demands of the office and better serve the interests of the institution. There was nothing to do but honor his request, and this the Board of Directors did. A special committee appointed for the purpose brought in the following report: "Whereas, it has been the long continued desire of Doctor Sprecher to devote himself exclusively to the department of theology, to which he was elected at the time of his call to the Institution; and whereas the growing infirmities of age and ill health lead him to believe that relief from that part of his excessive labors involved in the management of the College is necessary; therefore, Resolved, that we the Board of Wittenberg College comply with his request by accepting his resignation as president.

"Resolved, that while we deeply regret the necessity of this step, we regard it as a just demand, and can no longer refuse to accede to his wish.

"Resolved, that we hereby express our highest appreciation of the marked ability and untiring faithfulness with which he has conducted the affairs of the Institution during his presidency, and that we as a Board in the name of the Church return to him our sincere thanks for his long and self-sacrificing labors—but that we kindly ask the Doctor to retain the position until his successor is elected and enters upon his duties."¹

1. Second Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 281, 282.

These words express the high regard for Doctor Sprecher of those who knew him. He had left the pulpit of a strong congregation, where his reputation as a preacher of great ability was established, to become the second president of a weak college whose life-expectancy was very low. On several occasions he had refused opportunities to return to the active ministry at much higher compensation and with less demanding routine than the presidency of Wittenberg offered. He came to Springfield when only the east wing of the college building had been erected and when funds had yet to be secured for the construction of the remainder. In two years the building was completed, and Doctor Sprecher continued to strengthen the school in every possible way. Week-end visits to churches were made for the purpose of raising enough money to meet the college bills which were due. It would be difficult to overestimate his part in the preservation and development of Wittenberg.

The impact of his personality upon the students was such as to make an indelible impression. Those who studied under him have testified to his ability to make his students think and to inspire them with the subjects he taught. He was careful not to force his own conclusions on his students, but he usually won them to his views by his logic and power. They not only respected his ability, but they loved him. He developed their Christian loyalty as well as their knowledge. Above all he was a man of deep faith in God and in the Christ whom he so loyally served.

While it was regretted that the time had come for his resignation of the presidency, his retention as professor of theology was a means of strengthening the theological course. With the coming of Professor J. H. W. Stuckenberg, two men would now be devoting practically their full time to the seminary students. For a quarter of a century this had not been the case, except for the years 1865-1867 when Joel T. Swartz

had been a member of the faculty. Now it was possible to expand the theological course to two years, in line with the policy at the stronger seminaries in the country. In his capacity as professor of theology, Samuel Sprecher continued to develop leaders for the church for another ten years. Not until 1884 did he relinquish the task of teaching which he so thoroughly enjoyed.

PART IV

RESTLESS YEARS

Chapter IX

Leadership Passes to Helwig

When it became necessary to choose a successor to Samuel Sprecher as president of Wittenberg, the Board of Directors appointed a committee of five members to nominate a candidate. This resulted in the nomination of the Reverend Irving Magee, who was well known to most of the Directors, and who, a few years earlier, had declined a call to join the faculty of the college. He represented the Miami Synod on the college Board and had established a reputation as a minister. However, there were a number of the Directors who did not agree that he should be chosen to head the institution; and when the matter was discussed, a majority voted against extending the call to him. Another committee was thereupon appointed. They reported the name of the Reverend John B. Helwig, upon whom the Board agreed with unanimity. It was moved that he be allowed ten days to decide the question of acceptance, that his salary be fixed at two thousand dollars per annum, and that his field of teaching be left to the decision of the faculty.

At the time of his election, John B. Helwig was serving as pastor of the Lutheran Church in Dayton, Ohio. After earnestly considering the call extended to him, he accepted the position of leadership at Wittenberg where he took up his duties in September. At that time he was forty-one years of age. He served as president for eight years, then returned to the preaching ministry.

Doctor Helwig was a native of Ohio, as was his father, a man of German extraction. He was born on March 6, 1833, on a farm near Canal Dover, Ohio. As a very small lad, after the death of his mother, he went to live on his grandparents' farm, living with them until he reached manhood. On the farm he developed a strong physique and an alert mind. Twice before coming to Wittenberg as a student he had tried teaching. The first time was in the summer of 1848 when, although only fifteen years old, he was prevailed upon to teach in a school offering instruction during the summer months. The selection of young Helwig for this task reflects the high respect in which the youthful student was held by those who knew him. In a few years he left the farm to teach for three years in a district school near Bellefontaine.

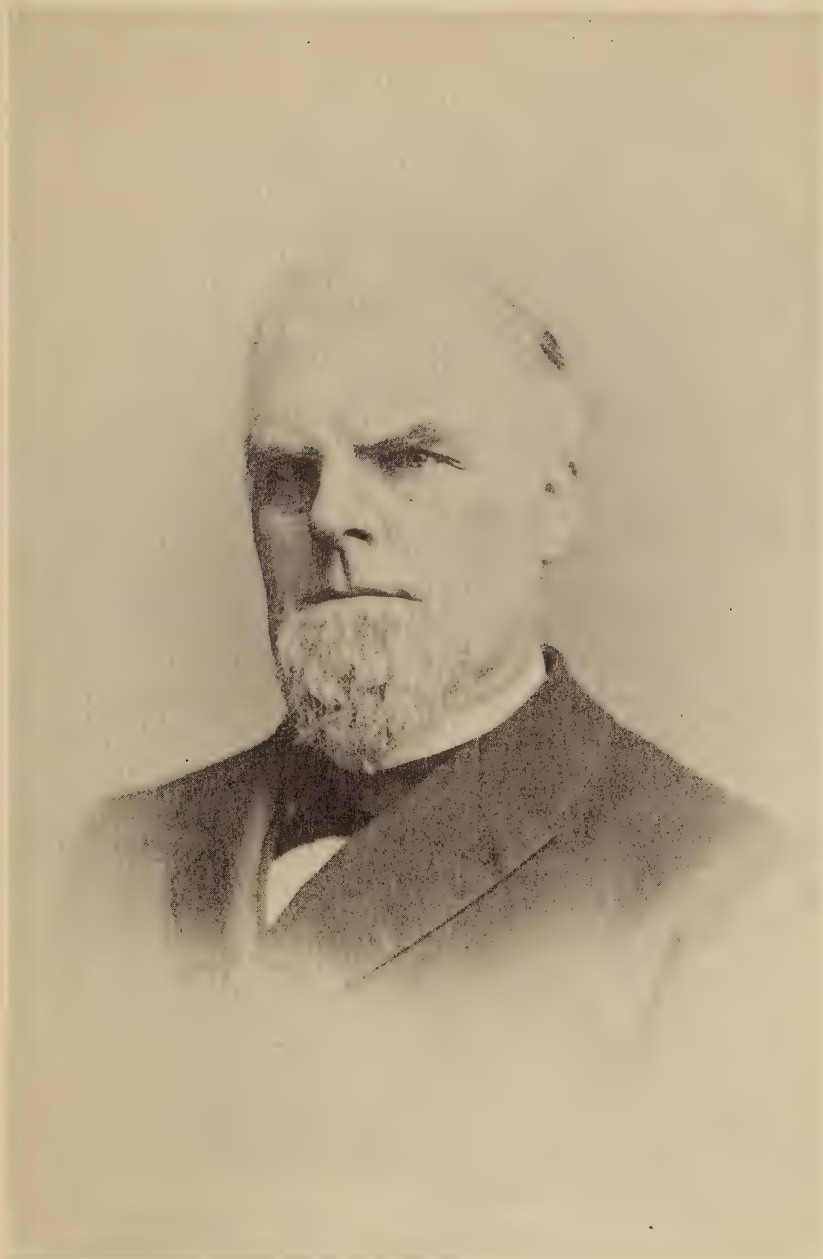
Because of his muscular build and robust health (he stood six feet tall, and weighed two hundred pounds) he felt that nature had intended him to be a blacksmith. Turning from school teaching he became a smithy in the little village of Winfield, Ohio. Rev. A. H. Aughe, the Lutheran minister in Winfield at that time, succeeded in interesting the husky young blacksmith in religion, with the result that Helwig joined the church. Pastor Aughe saw in his young friend the potential talents of a minister. When Doctor Sprecher visited Winfield, Aughe took him to call on the blacksmith, to ask the young man to consider the ministry as his life work. Although John Helwig replied that he thought he had taken up the work

for which he was best fitted, the interview with Sprecher bore fruit, and in September, 1855, he enrolled at Wittenberg.

His course of study was interrupted several times because he lacked the finances to support himself. He found that waiting table and doing odd chores after school hours was not sufficient, but after leaving college in order to work for awhile, he would always return to continue his education. These periods of labor took him to Alabama, Kentucky, and Illinois, where he sold fruit trees. A fellow student, S. F. Breckenridge, who was later to become a professor at Wittenberg, accompanied him on some of these trips. As a student, Helwig was highly respected by both faculty and fellow students. His chief interest lay in forensics. He was a strong debater and represented the Excelsior Literary Society on several public occasions.

Following his graduation in 1861 he taught school for a year near DeGraff, Ohio, and then was ordained by the Wittenberg Synod. His first charge was the Lutheran Parish at Sulphur Springs which consisted of three congregations. The Civil War was a disturbing factor among these people, for the parishoners were divided into their loyalties. But the young preacher feared no living man in publicly advocating the support of the Union. It is reported that because of this, the doors of one of his churches were nailed shut and the windows were broken.

In 1864 he made the first of several changes of pastorate which followed one another in quick succession. In each place his sterling qualities and efficient service strengthened the congregations he served. From Sulphur Springs he went to a church in Lancaster, Ohio, then to another in Springfield, Ohio, then to Cincinnati, and finally, in 1872, to Dayton. In each locality he was highly successful. With deep regret the Dayton congregation heard him report in 1874 that he had



PRESIDENT JOHN B. HELWIG, D.D. 1874-1884

received and accepted the call to the presidency of Wittenberg College. His ability as a preacher led to his selection as a contributor to *The Pulpit Treasury*. In addition to many articles which he wrote for various journals, he published a book, *Romanism and American Institutions*.

Doctor Helwig's formal installation took place at the close of the first school year in which he served as president. His inaugural address bore the title "The College Education Adapted to the Wants of the Present Day." The high sense of duty and obligation which he felt in accepting the presidency of Wittenberg is revealed in these words taken from that address: "My feeling is expressed . . . in the saying of the old Prussian school officer: 'I promised God that I would look upon every peasant child as a being who could complain of me, before God, did I not endeavor to provide for him the best education possible for me to provide.'"

As previously stated, the year 1874, which was the first of President Helwig's regime, was marked by the enrollment of the first young women to be admitted as students at Wittenberg. When this took place, their presence called for many readjustments in college life. As there were no dormitories for women, the first co-eds entered as day-students only. Some were girls who lived in Springfield and visited the campus a few hours daily to attend classes. Others who came from afar found rooming houses in the city and likewise spent only a portion of each day on the college grounds.¹

The decision to open the doors of Wittenberg to women brought the results for which the Board had hoped; the ladies helped to increase the total enrolment and thus aided the college financially. At first only a few women came, but the number increased until, by 1881, it could be reported that

1. For fifteen years this situation existed until the college provided its first residence for women students.

eighteen young ladies had been in attendance during the school year just ending.

The first woman graduate of Wittenberg was Miss Alice M. Geiger of the class of 1879. She taught school for several years before joining the editorial department of the *Farm News*, published in Springfield. The second woman graduate was her sister, Miss Lizzie M. Geiger (Mrs. A. D. Hosterman) who graduated in 1880. She, too, prepared for a teaching career. Three women received diplomas in 1881, none in 1882, and then in 1883 the single girl graduate was a third Geiger sister, Miss Anna L. Geiger (Mrs. John Garver), who likewise taught school for several years before her marriage. These three sisters were daughters of Professor H. R. Geiger, who rendered important service to Wittenberg while serving on the faculty from 1846 to 1882. The class of 1882 was the last one in which no women were numbered among the graduates, and the peak was reached in 1930 when one hundred and three young women received a bachelor's degree.¹

"The entrance of ladies into college on the morning of the 4th of September marked the dawn of a new era to be recognized as such in the history of the institution," reported the *Wittenberger* in 1874. The term "new era" was no exaggeration for the many men who had been accustomed to attend class "collarless, cuffless and coatless," according to the *Wittenberger*. Sometimes they stepped from their room to the classroom, which was in the same building, in old dressing gowns and tattered slippers. A remarkable change took place immediately upon the advent of women to the student body. There was considerable grumbling by some men over the need of the change in dress.

Men students did not overlook their opportunity to have

1. Probably the first woman graduate of Wittenberg College to go forward with graduate study and the securing of a Ph.D. degree was Miss Clara Scheiber of Bucyrus, Ohio. A member of the Wittenberg Class of 1906, she received her M.A. degree from Clark University in 1918 and her Ph.D. in 1920.

some fun at the expense of the co-eds who now sat in classes with them. Some of the males resented the presence of women, but most of the men reacted in a manner quite typical of their sex. They found various ways to tease the young women. Rhymes (perhaps doggerel is the word) were composed by the men who then left their poetic jibes where the girls would see them. Men loitering about the entrance to the college building succumbed occasionally to the desire to tease the young women as they came to attend classes. At the end of the first year of "mixed education" the president was able to report to the Board of Directors that the transformation to a co-educational basis had been made without difficulty.

The girls hardly knew what to call themselves collectively, and for a time were known as Wittenberg Girls, or Ladies of Wittenberg, then as Wittenberg Dames. Occasionally they would spend an evening on the campus, eating together and enjoying a program presented by some of their own number in the rooms of the literary societies. Their relations to the men were always formal. Polite notes were sent to request the use of the literary rooms and then to express their thanks for the privilege. The following note was discovered among the papers in the files of the Excelsior Society:

The Ladies of College tender their sincere thanks to the members of the Excelsior Society, for the use of their Hall on last Friday evening, also to the gentlemen who so kindly assisted them in preparing for their social.

Signed

Ladies of Wittenberg

Wittenberg 3-6-1878

In those days there was much formality in all college relationships. One literary society would always notify the other when someone was elected to honorary membership. Communications such as the following were frequently written:

Philo Hall, Nov. 4th, 1868

Gents of Ex. Society:

We would respectfully inform you that we have this day elected to Honorary membership of the Society Messrs. Rev. W. W. Winters of Kenton, O., and Rev. P. Anstadt of Selinsgrove, Pa.

Yours respectfully,

Cor. Sec. Philo Soc.

When one society felt a desire to engage the other in a public contest, a letter would be sent in which a challenge was offered and the rules of the contest proposed. The letter would take the form of the one transcribed below.

May 5, 1875

To the Honorable body
the Excelsior Society:

We, the Philosophian Society, do hereby challenge the Excelsior Society to a literary contest, to be held in Black's Opera House, in March of 1876, or, at any time and place, as the joint committee of the Societies may otherwise determine.

The said Contest to consist of four orations and one debate and to be under the following conditional stipulations:

- (1) The performers shall be limited as follows: the first orator to twelve minutes, the remaining orators to ten minutes; the aff. debaters to twenty-seven minutes, the neg. debaters to twenty-five minutes.
- (2) Each performer shall be a member of the Senior College class of 1876.

On the violation of any of the above conditions, either society shall have the right of an honorable withdrawal.

Cor. Sec. Philo Soc.

Formal acceptance of such a challenge was made in writing. The societies alternated in issuing their challenges.

The files of these societies make interesting reading, and in the assortment of miscellaneous items one comes upon many things of more than passing value. Two letters written in

1876 belong to this category. One is from Emily Dickinson, expressing her appreciation of honorary membership in the Excelsior Society; the other is from Benjamin Harrison, in which he explains that he is too busy to come to Springfield to present a lecture. The degree of interest shown by members in their literary organizations can be seen from a sheet of paper, yellowed by time, written eighty-four years ago. It bears the names of twenty-three students who together pledged and paid a sum of three hundred and forty-five dollars to liquidate the debt contracted by the Excelsior Society in "fitting up the Hall cabinet and library room." Each of the twenty-three members paid fifteen dollars, a large sum in those days, and for a student it was an amount which represented real sacrifice.

During Doctor Helwig's administration Wittenberg met many difficulties of a financial nature. The president himself made heroic efforts to secure funds for the school and was successful to some degree. But the country suffered an economic depression which, for several years, greatly hindered the flow of gifts to the institution. In June of 1876 the Board took measures to reduce the expenses of the college so as to bring them within the ability of the college to pay. A committee of five brought in the recommendations. Because Professor Rogers was resigning as principal of the Preparatory Department to become principal of Springfield High School, the committee suggested that an instructor for this department be hired at an annual salary of six hundred dollars, and that the task of directing the department be turned over to Professor Isaac Sprecher who would continue his duties on the faculty of the college. They recommended that George H. Young be hired as the instructor, and that the Prudential Committee be authorized to raise an amount sufficient to pay his salary by the sale of some lots belonging to the college, and by "the renting of the college boarding house and other available

sources.”¹ Furthermore, salaries of the faculty were to be reduced one hundred dollars each, while the sum of twenty-five dollars per month was fixed as maximum pay for the janitor. All of these recommendations were approved by the members of the Board of Directors, who then passed the motion “That we now adjourn with the most cordial feelings one toward another, and with renewed confidence in our beloved Faculty, and invoke God’s blessings on them in the future year of increased labor and will (*sic*) do all we can as a board and sustain what the board have (*sic*), and the Faculty may be called to do.”² One detects dry humor here, though none was intended.

During the succeeding year the Prudential Committee carried out a suggestion made to them by friends of the college. They hired men to solicit funds from the churches of the various synods supporting the school. In this manner a few thousand dollars was raised. A proposal to sell college land was entertained for a time but then was discarded. Some college property had been sold at one time or another but it was located off the college campus. The campus proper continued to increase in size rather than to diminish.

In 1877 further steps were taken to relieve the financial stringency of the college. Hoping to draw more students, it was voted to allow the children of clergymen to enroll at one-half tuition. In the belief that some students did not come to Wittenberg because there were not enough courses offered, two new courses of study were created. By the addition of a few classes it became possible to grant a diploma of graduation in a scientific and a philosophical department, as well as in the classical.

At this time the deficit in the college treasury amounted to \$2,190.98. The treasurer was commended by the Board for

1. Second Journal of Board Minutes, p. 308.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 309.

"adhering to a former resolution of not permitting drafts on the treasury to be made beyond the actual income of the Institution,"¹ but the college continued to face obligations without the money to meet them. Because Professors Prince and Young were not receiving adequate salaries, the members of the Board agreed to seek enough money from their own synods to pay each of the professors two hundred dollars. What was everybody's business again proved to be nobody's and the money was not secured.

The visits by financial agents of the college to Lutheran churches on the territory of the college were not productive of large results. In 1878 the Reverend R. F. Delo reported on nearly a year's activity as field representative of Wittenberg. He had collected in cash the sum of \$863.77. His salary and expenses amounted to \$935.34. Thus more money had to be paid to him than he had collected, in spite of the fact that he was an industrious worker. This is by no means the entire story of his activity, since he had secured interest-bearing notes amounting to \$2,274.30, although the worth of such pledges had to be questioned in the light of past experiences. President Helwig was active in securing funds for the college, and Delo had helped the president in securing a bequest from Doctor Weikert of Greenford, Ohio, for twenty thousand dollars. The financial agent called upon many people who owed pledges to the college, and as a result of his visit some of them forwarded their tardy payments to the treasurer. Such sums were not included in Delo's report. By preaching in many congregations and spreading an interest in Wittenberg wherever he went, good results accrued from the efforts he expended. At Decatur, Indiana, he organized a Lutheran congregation with thirty-one charter members, and in Monroeville he held protracted meetings. In Pennsylvania he discovered that the price of oil had fallen so low that many who were interested in

1. Second Journal of Board Minutes, p. 327.

Wittenberg were unable to spare any sizeable amount of money as a contribution to the college.¹

So many attempts have been made to remove either the college or seminary, or both, from Springfield, that a volume could be written on that subject alone. The most significant of these movements in the first quarter century was that of 1860-1861, which has been described in an earlier chapter. In 1868 the Board was approached by the Reverend E. Miller, a commissioner from the Illinois State University. He represented the commissioners of that institution in asking the Wittenberg Board to consider the propriety of uniting the theological departments of the two schools. The subject was referred to a committee consisting of President Sprecher and pastors J. W. Goodlin, L. A. Gotwald, and J. B. Baltzly. These men met with Miller, but were not impressed with the proposition which he brought. Their report to the Board stated that in their judgment it would be "inexpedient to take any steps in the matter at present."²

In 1874 there was some agitation for the removal of the college from Springfield and a committee was appointed to give some thought to the subject. They reported the next year that they had nothing to present to the Board. Thereupon, the same committee was reappointed with instructions to submit some definite plan to the present meeting of the Directors. Apparently the thought behind this action was that there should be a standing proposition to present to any group of persons who might ask the college to move to their community. The recommendation of the committee was "that the board ask as a consideration for removing the College from Springfield \$100,000.00, which amount shall include a sight (*sic*) of not less than 15 acres of ground such as the board shall

1. A few years later, when the economic condition of the country improved, and a larger number of students came to the college, the financial situation at Wittenberg grew less critical. But not until 1925, after eighty years of struggle, was Wittenberg to rest upon a really stable financial foundation.

2. Second Journal of Board Minutes, p. 157.

approve.”¹ Hearing the committee’s report, the Board decided to postpone further consideration for one year. In 1876 the item was tabled again, and no positive action was ever taken in regard to this particular report.

The question of removing the seminary arose once more in 1878 because of a memorial received in that year from the missionary convention held by the General Synod at Omaha, Nebraska. The memorial stated that: “It is the judgment of this convention that one of our schools of theology should be located in this great valley; and we, therefore, especially present this action as a memorial to the Board of Directors of the Seminary located at Springfield, Ohio, requesting that body to consider at an early day the feasibility of removing the same to some suitable point in the great valley of the Mississippi.”

A committee which was appointed to consider the memorial recommended that a group of five men be selected to ascertain the feasibility of such removal and report one year hence. The Board accepted this suggestion and also asked the Board of Carthage College to appoint a committee to confer with the men from Wittenberg. In the end the conclusion was reached that the Wittenberg endowment could not be divided or a part taken away for the establishment of a seminary in some other locality.

Not long after this, a consideration of the removal of the entire institution from Springfield was precipitated by the poor response of Springfield citizens to a proposal to raise the money for a second college building. Need for such a building arose from an increase in the number of students in attendance and especially from the addition of courses to the curriculum requiring the use of more class-rooms. In contrast to the limited accommodations at Wittenberg, other schools in the state were erecting new buildings and expanding their endowments at

1. *Ibid.*, p. 296.

such a rate as to cause the authorities of the college to believe that Wittenberg faced a loss of patronage if the condition were not changed.

The people of Springfield were asked to give one hundred thousand dollars in order that the college might erect the needed building. A well-planned campaign was conceived and put in operation. Springfield papers carried items relating the history of the college and describing its pressing needs.¹ Many personal letters were written to people of influence and leadership, urging their cooperation and support. Mr. Ross Mitchell made the initial subscription, a generous gift of ten thousand dollars. Teams of canvassers solicited the citizens of Springfield.

Everything appeared to favor the success of the campaign, but the outcome was a great disappointment. In June of 1881, subscriptions totaled only \$19,250.00—less than twenty per cent of the desired amount. Discouraged by this report, the Board of Directors turned with interest toward tentative proposals for the location of the college elsewhere. It was voted that if \$75,000.00 in *bona-fide* pledges were not secured by August first of the same year, (less than two months from the time of the Board meeting) the committee in charge of the campaign should encourage bids from other communities. It may be said on behalf of the Directors that they felt the citizens of Springfield did not sufficiently appreciate the college, with the opportunity it presented the youth of Springfield to secure an education, and with the financial benefits accruing to the community from the existence of such an institution in their city. In fairness to Springfield the fact should be stated that at this time a movement was on foot to secure a railroad for the city, and this effort involved financial commitments.

President Helwig, J. H. Emminger, Ross Mitchell, Doctor

1. Names of these papers were *The Daily Republic*, and *The Transcript and Gazette*.

Ort, and Doctor H. S. Wiles were appointed as members of the campaign committee. They recanvassed the community for new or increased subscriptions. Again Mr. Ross Mitchell took the initiative by adding to his original liberal gift.

On November 1, 1881, the Board of Directors convened in a special session at the First Lutheran Church of Springfield. They heard the committee report that the fund had not yet reached the sum of \$25,000.00. Because this was only one-third of the amount demanded by the Board, the committee presented plans for moving the college. They had employed Mr. E. O. Fallis, a Toledo architect, to draw a sketch of two college buildings, in order that there might be something definite to submit to any community interested in securing the college. Fallis completed drawings of two buildings, one to house the college proper, the other to be used for the Preparatory Department and to contain a college chapel.

Many Ohio cities were eager to secure the college and had approached the committee. Bryan offered five acres of land and twenty thousand dollars. Defiance wrote that a plot of ground was available and that an account had been opened to receive gifts in order to establish a fund. Kenton showed sufficient interest to write to the committee. Both Lima and Mansfield made it known that they were interested, and were awaiting a definite proposition, or statement of terms, from Wittenberg. Board members listened with interest to these developments and then discussed the various proposals. By action of the Board, the people of Mansfield were informed that if they would erect two buildings in compliance with the plans which the architect had submitted, on a tract of land consisting of not less than ten acres, Wittenberg would be moved to Mansfield. It was further stipulated that the site chosen for the college must meet with the approval of the committee, and that April 1, 1882, was the deadline for a

definite reply. Upon request, this date was later extended to May 1, 1882.

There was thus considerable likelihood that the college would not be permanently located in Springfield. At a special meeting of the Board, on May 3, 1882, representatives of Mansfield were in attendance to present their proposition to the Board. They admitted that they had been unable to raise the amount of money needed to erect two buildings according to the specifications. "We, however, ask permission," they said, "to offer the following proposition for your consideration. . . . That the citizens of Mansfield . . . will give your Board in good, collectable notes not less than \$50,000.00. . . . The notes shall be payable as follows: one-fourth thereof upon your commencing work on the new buildings; one-fourth in three months; one-fourth in six months and the last fourth in twelve months from and after the commencement of the work. The work is to be continually prosecuted after its commencement."¹

So many difficulties lay in the path of such a program that the Board took little time for deliberation before rejecting the Mansfield proposition. The offers of other communities failed to come before the Board because they did not receive approval from the committee. During ensuing months citizens of Springfield showed a much greater interest in Wittenberg by continuing to make subscriptions toward the proposed new building, until a total of \$60,000.00 could be reported. This increased cooperation and support by the city of Springfield was the final factor in leading the Board to drop consideration of plans for removing the college. Before long the second building, now known as Recitation Hall, was erected and for another period of years the disturbing thought of new locations for college or seminary lay dormant.

1. Third Journal of Wittenberg Board Minutes, p. 40.

Chapter X

Faculty Photographs

A one-volume history cannot do justice to the talented individuals who served so acceptably during the earlier portion of Wittenberg's existence. At best only a few of the notable personalities can receive more than passing mention. However, this period, as previously stated, was one during which several men of outstanding importance served on the faculty. This appears to be a logical point at which to consider some of the men associated with President Helwig.

Professor H. R. Geiger, A. M., Ph. D., has earned the right to special recognition in any history of Wittenberg. His was the distinction of serving under three of the college's presidents. Wittenberg was only a year old when he joined the faculty under Ezra Keller. From 1846 until 1882, a period of thirty-six years, he shared the burdens, sacrifices, and heartaches connected with the task of establishing the struggling institution. Not only did he serve with credit on the faculty, but in many other ways he contributed to the life and welfare of the college.

Hezekiah Geiger was born in Pennsylvania on January 10, 1820. Eleven years later his parents moved to Ohio. As the period of his youth was prior to the advent of the public

school, he did not have the advantage of a formal education. In after years Professor Geiger confessed to his students that as a boy he did not know what a college was. However, in this youth a thirst for knowledge and an aptitude for study early appeared. By means of reading whatever books were available, talking with those whose knowledge was greater than his own, and taking advantage of occasional opportunities to study in school, he developed to the point where he himself was able to teach school acceptably, as far as frontier efforts in his day were judged. When he was twenty-one Geiger became a Christian, and almost immediately decided to enter the Ministry. His original decision to enroll at the newly founded college in Delaware, now known as Ohio Wesleyan University, was changed by a Lutheran minister who persuaded him to study at Gettysburg. There he displayed unusual aptitude in mathematics, the subject which he was to teach as a college professor for many years.

While a senior in college he accepted an offer to join the Wittenberg faculty. Another young man, Michael Diehl, graduating from the theological course at Gettysburg the same year, was asked to take the chair of ancient languages. Both men accepted and came to the Springfield institution the following fall. For twenty-three years they were to serve as colleagues, until ill health forced Diehl to resign his position. These men identified themselves with Wittenberg before a single building had been erected upon the campus, and when classes were meeting on the ground floor of the Lutheran Church.

In order to come to the Lutheran school in Ohio, Geiger turned down a much better offer to teach at Gettysburg. It is difficult for the present generation to realize what sacrifices were willingly made by a handful of men who desired to see Wittenberg maintained. It may be said that the church made some

educational institutions, but of Wittenberg it can be stated more correctly that the college made the church. There was only a weak Lutheran constituency in Ohio in those days; thus without strong church backing the college had to develop itself. As it grew stronger and contributed men to the ministry who built up the church on the Ohio territory, the benefits of Wittenberg's location in Ohio became evident. These professors of the first few decades had to create a point of view among Ohio Lutherans which would bring about support of the college. This was no simple task, for very few residents could boast of an education beyond the most rudimentary level. Wittenberg today enjoys the result of years of faithful planting by professors who, "in journeyings oft," slowly convinced men and women of the urgent need for a strong college and seminary in Springfield. As Wittenberg strengthened Lutheranism in this territory, the growing church gradually assumed a greater share of the support of its institution.

Professor Geiger carried a teaching schedule which was two or three times greater than that which is customary today; yet he found time to study theology and was ordained by the Wittenberg Synod. By the strength of his character he exerted a helpful, Christian influence upon the students.

Although mathematics was his first love, Professor Geiger gradually became more interested in geology and the natural sciences. He labored to gather funds for the erection of a cabinet room, and to collect items to display therein for the benefit of the students. In 1871 he took the senior class to Mammoth Cave, Kentucky, to gather specimens for the college collection. This same interest led him to travel extensively throughout the United States, particularly in the West, and took him to the Sandwich Islands. Ultimately he resigned the chair of mathematics in order to give the last nine years of service on the faculty to the department of natural science,

of which he was made chairman.

In 1882 he terminated his long tenure of teaching to join in the United States Geological Survey and to write on the subject of geology. It was a source of pride to his many friends to see him thus granted special recognition by the government, though they regretted that the removal of his residence to Washington took him from their midst.

Those who knew Professor Geiger, or who studied under him, held him in the highest regard. He took great care to make sure that the students understood his daily lectures. Not only as a teacher, but as a friend, he endeared himself to the students. He counted it a pleasure to listen sympathetically to their problems and to counsel with them. From the standpoint of Christian character, knowledge of his field, ability to convey that knowledge to those who studied under him, foresight in developing and strengthening his department in the college, and loyal, sacrificial devotion to the school, Doctor Geiger is an outstanding figure in the annals of Wittenberg.

The Reverend Michael Diehl, who came to Wittenberg at the same time as Geiger, gave twenty-three years of service to the institution. He is worthy of special mention because he arrived at Springfield while the school was in its infancy and identified himself with its struggles throughout that first difficult quarter-century. After the death of Doctor Keller, Michael Diehl was appointed to fulfill the duties of an acting president. This he did efficiently and with benefit to the institution, until the arrival of Doctor Sprecher as the second president of the college.

He helped to build the church on the Wittenberg territory by combining with his teaching duties the work of preaching, a task which he greatly loved. During all his years as a professor of ancient languages he engaged in pastoral work. Many

Lutheran churches in and about Springfield are in debt to him for his ministry to them during their early years.

Thanks to Doctor Diehl, part of the journal or diary of Ezra Keller is preserved, as he incorporated portions of the diary in his biography of the first president of Wittenberg, which he published in 1859.

Students loved him for his kindly spirit and his friendly interest in their welfare. People spoke of his Christian character and reverent attitude, which won him the respect and admiration of everyone. A successful teacher, he strengthened the staff by his ability in the classroom and by his contributions to the various committees, as well as by his handling of the special duties assigned to him.

Another who gave long years of satisfactory service during the lean first quarter-century is Isaac Sprecher, nephew of President Sprecher, who for twenty-seven years devoted himself to the welfare of the school. Upon graduation from Gettysburg College in 1851 he offered his services to Wittenberg, and was employed as an instructor at three hundred dollars per annum. The next year he became professor of history, and principal of the Preparatory Department, a position which he held for twenty years. He resigned the chair of history in 1869 upon his election to the professorship of ancient languages. He helped with the handling of college funds, serving a long term as collector of tuition. It was in the field of Latin and Greek that he possessed his greatest ability as a teacher. The thoroughness with which he taught the groundwork of language study led to his reputation as a drill master. Many a student paid tribute to Isaac Sprecher for this ability. Friendly, courteous, faithful, he served quietly, but was a source of strength to Wittenberg during its critical years.

A man of considerable prominence was the Reverend

C. L. Ehrenfeld, A. M., Ph. D., who served as a tutor in the Preparatory Department for the two years 1857 and 1858, then returned to the faculty as professor of English literature and Latin in 1882. A graduate of Wittenberg College and the theological course, he served congregations in various parts of Pennsylvania with such ability as to become a leader in the church.

A group of men who were interested in education desired to turn Ehrenfeld's talents to that field, with the result that he was chosen principal of the Southwestern Pennsylvania State Normal School. In that position he succeeded in gaining financial support from the state for its normal schools. Wickersham, State School Superintendent, appointed him to the office of Deputy and assigned important tasks to him. His contributions to the discussion of developing education drew high praise from men of reputation.¹ He helped to formulate the policies adopted by the normal schools of the State of Pennsylvania. By appointment of the governor he held the office of financial secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Education. In 1878 Governor Hartranft appointed him State Librarian, reappointment coming in three years under Governor Hoyt. In that office he again secured large appropriations from the legislature, this time for the purchase of books, securing in principal cities abroad a rare collection of books on early American history. Doctor Ehrenfeld succeeded in obtaining for Pennsylvania a library which in many respects was second only to the Library of Congress. Indeed Lyman Abbott, editor of *The Christian Union*, wrote: "I wish a Congressional Library Committee would come on to Harrisburg and see how Pennsylvania treats her books. . . . Under the energetic administration of Dr. C. L. Ehrenfeld a special appropriation was made by the last Legislature. . . . to be employed in making the Library what a State Library ought to be, a complete collection of works

1. See *Pennsylvania School Journal*, September, 1876.

throwing light on the history of the State.”¹

From the well-paid position of State Librarian, in which he was so eminently successful, Ehrenfeld chose to return in 1882 to Wittenberg, where he applied his worthy talents to the intellectual development of the young students. The classroom and study carried an overwhelming appeal for this man of scholarly attainments. Once again Wittenberg, though unable to pay the salary which other schools offered, was fortunate in finding a man of ability willing to cast his lot with her in the noble venture of Christian education.

The most widely known of Wittenberg's professors in this era was the Reverend J. H. W. Stuckenberg, called to be professor of sacred philology, who established an international reputation as a sociologist. He was a pioneer in the latter field, being in many respects the first to advocate certain applications of Christianity to America's social problems. Born in Germany, Stuckenberg was brought to America by his parents when he was four years old. He came to love his parents' adopted country, but the land of his birth ever held a fascination for him. Many times in later life he returned to Germany for study and recreation, the length of one sojourn extending to fourteen years. While a boy in Cincinnati he joined the First Lutheran Church, whose pastor, Doctor William Henry Harrison, persuaded him to enter Wittenberg College to study for the ministry. Following his ordination he served a congregation in Iowa for one year, then continued his education abroad by enrolling at the University of Halle. Later he was to study at the Universities of Goettingen, Berlin and Tuebingen. His return to America, after the first trip abroad, was in the times immediately preceding the Civil War. It was not long until he relinquished the parish he was serving to become a chaplain in the Northern Armies.

1. Editorial by Lyman Abbott in *The Christian Union*, July 9, 1879.

Later Stuckenberg served Messiah Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh. Several members of his congregation were men of means who owned mills in the "Smoky City." His acquaintance with these industrialists gave Stuckenberg unrestricted access to the men who worked in the mills and as he went among them, he became well-informed about their working conditions. He saw the poverty of this poorly-paid class of workers. Sensing that there was an injustice here which Christianity should have some part in remedying, he searched his New Testament for its social implications. Thus he developed an interest which remained with him the rest of his life. Social principles in the New Testament became a subject of increasing importance to him. Thereafter, in strongest terms, he advocated their study and their application to life. A number of years later he wrote: "Literally and uncompromisingly the church must be the embodiment of the social principles and practices of the New Testament."¹

In 1873 Stuckenberg became professor in the department of theology at Wittenberg and taught sociology in the college. During this period in his life he became especially active in the Lutheran Church. He sponsored the organization of a Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society in the General Synod, and for two years edited the *Lutheran Evangelist*. In 1880 he published *Christian Sociology*, the first of many volumes which were to appear under his name. His desire for further study still burned strongly within him, with Berlin having a special appeal as an intellectual center. After seven years on the Wittenberg faculty, he resigned his position in order to return to the German capital. That he was highly esteemed on the campus at Wittenberg is revealed in the following paragraph from the student newspaper: "It is with feelings of deep regret that the students of the Seminary received the announcement of Doctor Stuckenberg's departure

1. This was written by Stuckenberg for *Christian at Work*. A reprint of the article appeared in the *Lutheran Observer*, November 25, 1892, p. 1.

for Europe. None have had better opportunities to become acquainted with his most excellent qualities of head and heart, and none more fully recognize in him an eminent scholar, able, rich in learning, with broad and liberal views—a teacher deeply in earnest, one who carries to the lecture room the results of the most careful and searching investigation, and one who shows in the masterly treatment of his subjects, the thorough student and progressive scholar.”

The Stuckenbergs enjoyed entertaining students in their home, and by that means the professor's influence over the young people was increased. He took an active interest in the welfare of the school. On one occasion, in 1874, he and the Reverend E. K. Bell arranged a musical concert, the proceeds from which were used in furnishing the college chapel. From this source the sum of two hundred and thirty-five dollars was procured.

Stuckenberg remained in Berlin for fourteen years, serving as pastor of the American Church. During that time his book, *The Life of Immanuel Kant*, was published by MacMillan and Company upon the recommendation of James Russell Lowell. During his long stay in Berlin, Stuckenberg met many of the great and near great in educational, political, literary and military circles. Through these acquaintances he received numerous invitations to write for various periodicals, some of which he accepted. He was also offered many teaching opportunities in America.¹

Space cannot be taken here to tell of his varied interests and of the many honors which came to this Wittenberg alumnus during the next few decades. He published many books which were widely read. His *Introduction to the Study*

1. In addition to lecturing at Yale, Oberlin, Gettysburg, Ohio Wesleyan, Marietta, Baldwin-Wallace and McCormick Seminary, Stuckenberg was approached concerning professorships at Gettysburg, Illinois State University, and the universities of Chicago, Michigan, Princeton and Western Reserve. While he was at Wittenberg, Wooster College had conferred upon him the S. T. D. degree.

of *Philosophy* went through nine editions. In 1896 he published a volume bearing the title *Tendencies in German Thought*. In 1897 another of his books, *The Social Problem*, appeared, followed the next year by his *Introduction to the Study of Sociology*.

In 1895, at the conclusion of his long stay in Berlin, Doctor Stuckenberg settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he lived until his death in 1903. He selected that city because he wished to be near the Boston Public Library. In these closing years of his life he wrote for many newspaper syndicates and magazines, but concentrated mainly on what was to be his greatest work. This appeared in 1903 from the press of G. P. Putman's Sons. It was in two volumes, entitled *Sociology: the Science of Human Society*.

In his many books, certain strong convictions of the man are constantly reiterated. He sought to convince the church of the need for making religion more practical and more considerate of the actual needs of men, physical as well as spiritual. He conceived of the church as an institution which must ever keep abreast of the times, possessing eternal, truth which must be applied to the particular problems of the modern day.¹ With no desire to minimize the church's duty to develop faith, Stuckenberg emphasized the church's duty to teach ethics as well as faith. He sought to develop sociology as a rational science, a branch of theology. Years before the advent of the social gospel, this professor was stressing the application of the spirit of Christianity to the social problems of his day.

1. These views parallel the thought of Sprecher, under whose presidency Stuckenberg was added to the Wittenberg faculty. Sprecher wrote: "I am fully persuaded the Lord has more truth yet to break forth out of his Holy Word. For my part, I cannot sufficiently bewail the condition of the Reformed Churches who are come to a period in Religion and will go at present no further than the instruments of the Reformation. The Lutherans cannot be drawn to go beyond what Luther saw; whatever part of His will our God has revealed to Calvin, they will rather die than embrace it; and the Calvinists, you see, stick fast where they were left by that great man of God, who yet saw not all things. Here is the only true method of retaining the truth in religion, that we have every present judgment by the Word of God and that we be ready to receive whatever new truth shall be made known to us from the same Word."—from the papers of Samuel Sprecher.

A colleague of Stuckenberg's on the Wittenberg faculty was Professor Benjamin F. Prince, one who was an outstanding figure in the first century of the school. Because he continued to teach until the late nineteen-twenties, a survey of his contribution to the life of the school will be given on subsequent pages of this history.

The Reverend Samuel F. Breckenridge, who came to the Wittenberg faculty in 1874, was the son of a Lutheran clergyman. His education, previous to college work, was received largely from his father who was known for his scholarly attainments and who had taught school a number of years. When Samuel was only fourteen years old, he left home in response to a spirit of independence which had developed within him the desire for self-support. For seven years he worked on a farm, taught school, and clerked in a store. Entering the freshman class at Wittenberg in 1854, he was six years in completing his college course because of interruptions in his school life, due to lack of funds. He had intended to enter the legal profession, but a religious experience during his junior year at Wittenberg led him to decide upon the ministry instead.

After graduating in 1860, he restricted his ministry to occasional preaching, and accepted the position of principal of the Mendota Female Seminary, Mendota, Illinois. This school enjoyed what was then considered a large enrollment for such an institution—several hundred students. Breckenridge served in the Illinois school for four years, then became principal of the academy at Leechburg, Pennsylvania. At Leechburg he also served as pastor of nearby rural congregations. After two years of the combined duties, he terminated his teaching career in order to devote full time to Christian work. Churches in Bellefontaine and Plymouth, Ohio, profited from his ministry. In 1874 he returned to Wittenberg to succeed S. A. Ort as professor of mathematics and logic. On

the college campus he soon became a popular figure. Students appreciated his love of fun and his interest in sports, but they also respected him for the able presentation of his subject in the classroom. Admiration for his ability and appreciation of his human touch led many a student who was outside the church to make a public confession of Christ and to become a church member. The writer has heard men who studied under Breckenridge speak in glowing terms of his masterly teaching.

Doctor Breckenridge was a preacher who held the attention of his audience. His interest in the church and his love of teaching were merged when he became a professor in the seminary, where he remained for many years.

These are some of the men who formed the teaching staff at Wittenberg in an earlier day. Unquestionably, at the time when Helwig occupied the presidency, the Lutheran institution in Springfield possessed a faculty, the members of which, though few in number, possessed sound scholarship and a teaching ability of which the college could well be proud.

Meanwhile others were serving the school in various roles. From June of 1867 until June of 1901 Alexander Gebhart of Dayton, Ohio, gave faithful and devoted service as treasurer of Wittenberg College. He held office under four of the college presidents. It was through the unostentatious labor of men such as he that the faculty members were supported in their teaching program. Wittenberg found a place in the hearts of many individuals who were willing to help her in her service to young men and women. They believed that in contributing to the character and education of American youth they were best serving both God and country.

PART V.
ADVANCE UNDER SAMUEL ORT

Chapter XI
New Wittenberg

While the decision to move the college to Mansfield was pending, Doctor Helwig presented his resignation as president. He had been working harder than his health would permit. Following the practice of former presidents, he spent much time in securing gifts for Wittenberg and for that purpose made frequent trips to congregations in the territory. These journeys were added to his busy schedule as a professor and as president of the college. Faced with the prospect of broken health, he took a short vacation and went to Washington, D. C. But when the severe headaches which had been causing him so much distress were not alleviated by a short rest, he decided to sever his connections with Wittenberg in order to go abroad.

At the special meeting of the Board of Directors in May, 1882, Doctor S. A. Ort announced the receipt of a telegraphic dispatch from Doctor Helwig which read as follows: "My relief from pain is not sufficient to enable me to do college work. I must now withdraw from the college, my resignation

to take effect last of June, salary, service and house rent to close May 1st. I ask that this be so arranged without fail. I will esteem it a great favor."¹ The following letter from Helwig, dated May 3, 1882, was also read:

"To the Board of Directors of Wittenberg College:

"I herewith present my resignation of the presidency of the college.

"Under other circumstances I would have asked for my release from the College at the regular meeting of your Board at the close of the collegiate year, and therefore regret the necessity of your meeting at this time, insofar as the matter personal to myself has required it. But that I may make arrangements such as will, I trust, enable me the more speedily to regain my usual health, I ask that I be released from the College at this time and that my resignation date from the first day of May, 1882."²

Acceding to the earnest request of Helwig, the Board accepted his resignation. The sentiment among the Directors was that the president had injured his health by his zealous activities in promoting the college interests. He received tribute from a committee on resolutions which reported as follows:

"Whereas, Rev. J. B. Helwig, D.D., has deemed it necessary in consequence of failing health, to resign the presidency of Wittenberg College, therefore

"Resolved, First, that the Board of Directors recognize that his services have been eminently useful to the college, and do sincerely regret the necessity of accepting his resignation.

"Second, That we deeply sympathize with him in his present disability, induced, as we think, by his laborious efforts to promote the interests of the college, and the churches in connection with it; and that, we hope and believe, his present illness is only temporary, being the result of overwork.

1. Third Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 58, 59.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 34.

"Third, That we take pleasure in recording our appreciation of his administration of the interests of the college, and reluctantly part with him as the president: and that we still regard him as one of Wittenberg's warmest friends, and hearty supporters, and will always cherish him as a brother beloved, and joy to meet him in the various fields of church work for which his superior abilities so well qualify him."¹

His European travels were refreshing to Doctor Helwig, so much so that he was able to become active in the ministry again. Upon his return to America he located at Akron, Ohio, and then became pastor of First Lutheran Church in Springfield, Ohio. Doctor Helwig's next pastorate was at Urbana, Ohio, where he became minister of the First Presbyterian Church, and from that time until his death he adhered to the doctrines of that denomination. His reputation as a preacher and lecturer was widespread. Always a staunch advocate of temperance, he was candidate for Governor of Ohio on the Prohibition ticket in 1889.

Doctor Helwig retired from the ministry at the age of sixty-nine, but spent two years more in supplying churches until sickness forced him to give up all work. He died on July 25, 1904, in Bellefontaine, Ohio. *The Daily Examiner* of that city, in printing an outline of his life and an estimate of his work, stated that "he lived a long and consecrated life and had endeared himself to all the people with whom he had been in any way associated. His life work was with and for the people, and he had little time for anything else. The ministry was the principal part of his life and he devoted himself zealously to that, his work literally dropping from his sick hands."²

The choice of a man to succeed Doctor Helwig required very little deliberation, most of the Board members turning at

1. Third Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 35, 36.

2. *The Daily Examiner*, Bellefontaine, Ohio, Tuesday, July 26, 1904.

once to Professor S. A. Ort. He was a graduate of Wittenberg, had taught at the college for several years, and then had returned to the active ministry. A year before his election he had rejoined the Wittenberg faculty. As a member of the teaching staff he displayed such qualities of leadership that he was assigned by the Board of Directors to several of the most important of its committees, including the one charged with the responsibility of erecting a new building in Springfield or moving the college elsewhere. It was known as the committee on New Wittenberg. His nomination to the presidency came from a committee consisting of L. M. Kuhns, D.D., East Ohio Synod; Mr. Alexander Gebhart, Miami Synod; the Reverend D. Summers, Wittenberg Synod; The Reverend J. N. Barnett, Synod of Northern Indiana; the Reverend G. W. Enders, Olive Branch Synod; and Mr. Ross Mitchell of Clark County. Following the report of this committee, a ballot was cast which revealed that a majority of the Directors favored Doctor Ort, and the election was then made unanimous.

Two brief notes consummated the task of securing Wittenberg's fourth president. W. H. Singley, secretary of the Board, sent a communication consisting of one sentence as follows:

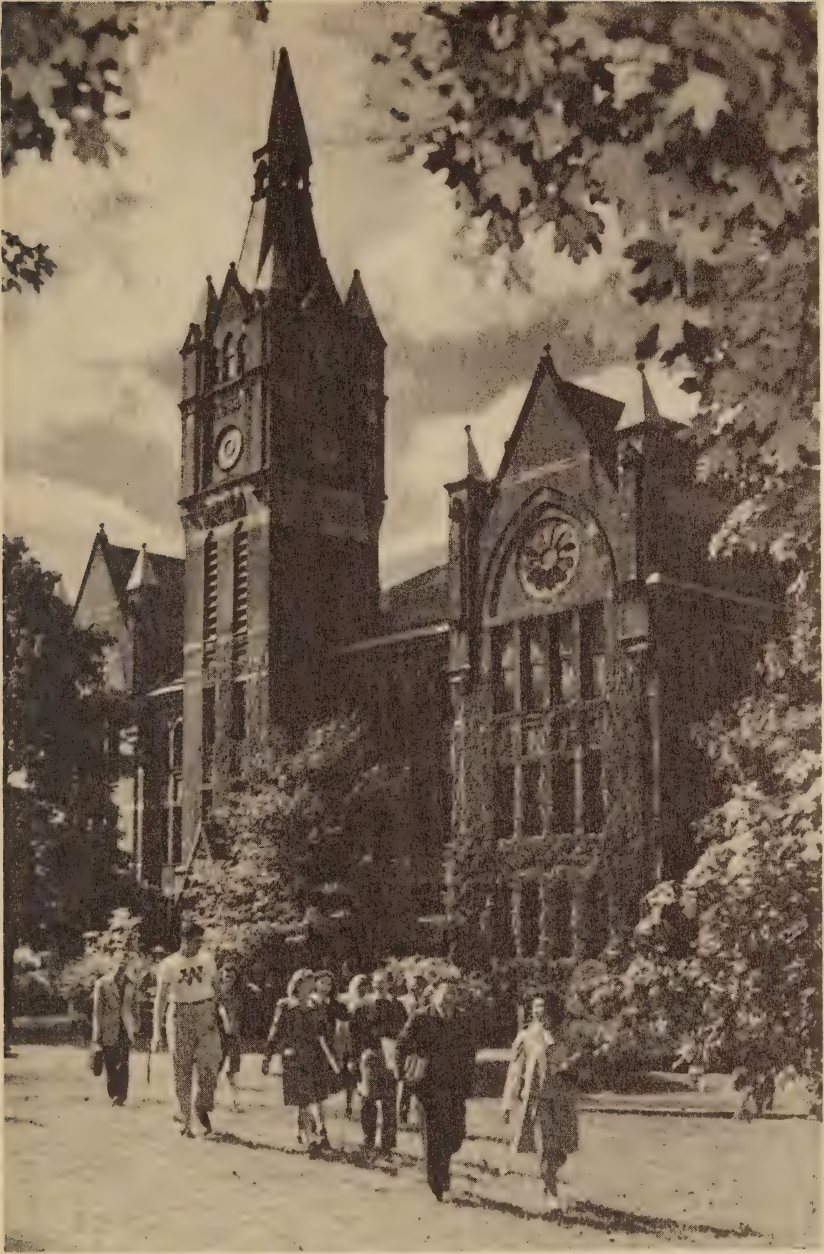
Rev. Prof. S. A. Ort, D.D.

Dear Sir:

I hereby notify you that at our morning session you were elected president of Wittenberg College.

A single sentence was written in reply: "In answer to your note stating my election to the presidency of Wittenberg College, would say that I accept the position tendered."¹ Thus the fourth president of Wittenberg took up the duties of that honorable office.

1. Third Journal of Board Minutes, p. 35.



RECITATION HALL

A brief summary of the life of Samuel A. Ort will give one a conception of the kind of man who was chosen to head the institution. He was born at Lewistown, Pennsylvania, November 11, 1843. Before entering his teens he spent three years in an academy to prepare himself for college entrance. During that period, with the Greek and Latin languages occupying much of his time, he laid a solid foundation for his later life of hard study. In the summer of 1860 he entered Wittenberg College, graduating three years later with highest honors. While in college he joined the Philosophian literary society and represented that group as orator at the anniversary meeting of 1863.¹

After his college graduation, S. A. Ort completed the one-year theological course at Wittenberg, and then was ordained by the Wittenberg Synod in the fall of 1865.² He tutored in the college for one year, served a year as pastor of First Lutheran Church, Findlay, Ohio, then taught in the academy at Hagerstown, Maryland until 1869. The next five years he taught English, literature, and mathematics at Wittenberg. He left the college in 1874 to become pastor of the First Lutheran Church of Louisville, Kentucky, where his work was outstanding and resulted in a call to the strong and influential St. James Lutheran Church of New York City. He

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1. Students are known the world over for their mischief-making, and stories of college pranks are legion. At the time Ort was in college, someone led a horse up into the belfry of Myers Hall. It was a difficult feat, accomplished only with great ingenuity. But as anyone with a knowledge of horses is aware, it was a far more difficult task to get the horse down the steep and narrow steps. It is said that a derrick had to be employed in order to get the animal down to a lower floor, where he could be led to the ground floor. Responsibility for this prank which gave some concern to college authorities was charged at various times to a number of individuals, including S. A. Ort. The college year book of 1894, known at that time as *The Cycle*, carried two humorous cartoons. One depicts a young man unmistakably bearing the features of Doctor Ort, with a whip in his hand, belaboring a snorting horse which rebelled at the idea of ascending another flight of stairs. Underneath the drawing is the statement: "A great man as our fathers saw him." The second cartoon is labeled: "A great man as we see him." It portrays a figure, again clearly meant to represent Doctor Ort, standing on a pedestal and striking a statuesque pose, the fourth president of Wittenberg.
 2. In his infancy, his pious mother, who died when he was ten, had dedicated him to the Christian ministry. At an early age he studied the Catechism so diligently that he was prepared for church membership long before others of the same age. The refusal of his pastor to receive him into church membership until he was a little older hurt the boy so deeply that he did not join a church until he had entered college. Then he became a member of the First Lutheran Church in Springfield during the pastorate of Doctor Morris Officer.

resigned that charge after eighteen months to return to Wittenberg as professor of mental philosophy, and of sacred philology in the seminary. This time he had come back to the college to stay. Following his advancement to the presidency of the institution in 1882, he served acceptably in that office for more than eighteen years, occupying at the same time the chairs of Christian theology in the Seminary and of mental philosophy¹ in the college. He resigned as president in 1900, continuing his teaching work, and was elected vice-president of the college, an office which he held until shortly before his death on January 6, 1911.

His honors were numerous. In addition to the degree of Doctor of Divinity which his *alma mater* bestowed upon him in 1876, the College of Wooster honored him in 1893 with the Doctor of Laws degree. He was secretary of the General Synod in 1873, 1875, 1877 and was elected president of the national body at Omaha, Nebraska, in 1887. For thirty-eight years, from 1873 until the time of his death, he was elected a delegate to every meeting of the General Synod.

The intellectual endowment of Doctor Ort was recognized as being of a high order. Dean David H. Bauslin of Hamma Divinity School praised him in these words: "He knew how to hold a knotty problem in philosophy or divinity before his mind in a strong grasp, until he knew it and could divide it into all its parts. Few men could state truth with the lucidity and simplicity that were features of his strong productions." ² He approached problems from a philosophical standpoint, but in his conclusions was always in harmony with the Scriptures. With all his mental ability he was still very approachable. Students appreciated him for his kindness of manner and sympathy of heart.

The first great task to face Doctor Ort when he assumed

1. I. e., philosophy and psychology.

2. *Selected Sermons and Addresses of Dr. Ort, a Memorial Volume*, page 307.

the presidency was that of completing plans for the new building. The committee appointed by the Board consisted of B. F. Prince as chairman; S. F. Breckenridge, secretary; D. R. Hosterman, treasurer; S. A. Ort, C. L. Ehrenfeld, Alexander Gebhart, Ross Mitchell, J. F. Shaffer, Samuel Sprecher, and G. H. Young. In consultation with an architect these men agreed upon specifications for the new building. It was proposed that the original college building should be restricted in use to a men's dormitory, a dining hall and a kitchen. The new building would have recitation rooms, laboratories, a chapel, a library, and literary society halls. When all plans had been completed and everything was in readiness for construction, a ceremony marked the beginning of actual work. One who witnessed the event, on a sunny afternoon in February, 1883, has described the scene: "Professor Prince, president of the building committee, in company with the contractors and a few interested students, marched to the top of the beautiful knoll in the campus, about two hundred yards south-west of the old building, which was the site selected for the new college. Coming upon the spot, where they were about to perform an act that should form the connecting link between the old and new, in the history of Wittenberg, and should affect generations to come, they hesitated and stood silent and speechless for a few moments as if consciously meditating upon the important event about to take place. The bearings were taken and the place for the first stake marked, which Mr. E. Reuben Wagner drove, amid the cheers of his fellow students. For this privilege he gave a \$5 gold coin, which was the first money paid into the treasury toward the new building. Thus the work was begun which had been a matter of so much anxious thought."¹

Three months later the time had arrived for the laying of the cornerstone. On the 24th of May, 1883, a large group

1. Clark, G. G., *History of Wittenberg College* (1887), p. 40.

of people gathered to witness the ceremonies. According to an account in the *Globe Republic*, it was an ideal spring day, with the college grounds looking their best because of the foliage of the trees, and because the shrubs and flowers were in full bloom. We will let one who attended the day's events describe the occasion: "Dr. S. A. Ort read a part of the cxiii Psalm; Rev. W. H. Webb, of the Second Presbyterian Church, offered prayer. He thanked God that this was a land of liberty, knowledge and Christian education, and for the past history of this institution in particular, because from it so many have gone out to bless the world.

"G. C. Rawlins, Esq., was introduced by Dr. Ort, and made the first speech on behalf of the citizens of Springfield. "The stone, he said, is already historic, hung round with memories co-eval with the city. About to be dedicated to human progress and to God, it is not only a promise, but a memory of the past and its deeds. The new, however, will not be Wittenberg. Wittenberg exists in this grove where generations of youth have been. Not here alone, but in the mercantile pursuits, on the farm, in the shop, in the persons of teacher, of missionary, preacher, in the memory of those who went from here clad in army blue, never to return, and in the faces of those assembled. This Wittenberg is not alone the work of today. The college does not consist of stone and mortar. We revere, not for its own sake, this insensible clod. It is found in the work and product, the lives and spirit of our teachers and their associates. Surely Wittenberg deserves and holds the respect and affection of every citizen of Springfield. We speak of George Rogers Clark, of Charles Anthony, Wm. A. Rogers and of Samson Mason, and we say that their names are monumental. We take their invincible presence into account, when we reckon the things we possess; and by the same token we cherish this college as a part of our heritage . . .'

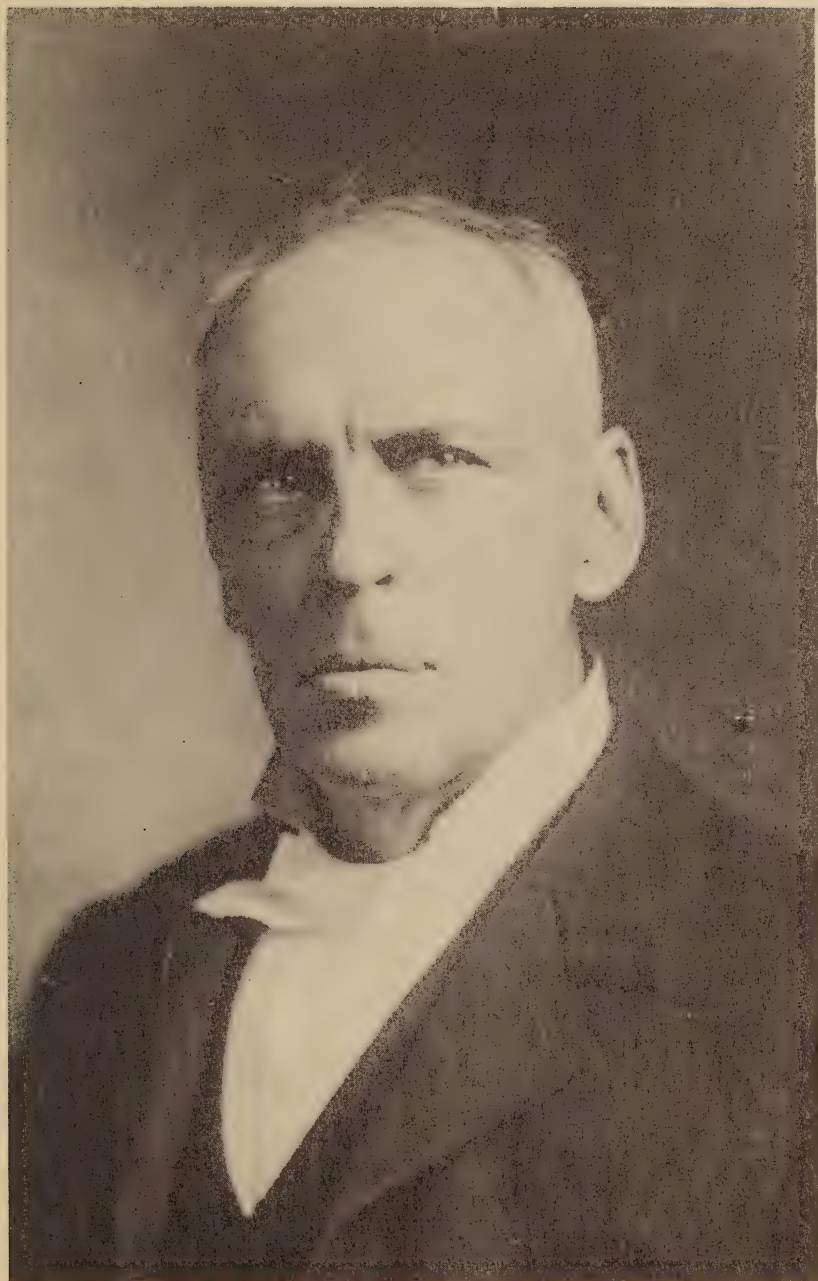
"Dr. Ort said this event was only possible because of the generosity of the people of Springfield. To them the thanks of the college friends were due. The assemblage then moved over to the foundation of the new building. The stone, deeply inscribed with the figures '1883', occupies the south-east corner. When the audience had found an acceptable position perched on the walls and gathered thickly about, the ceremony of laying the stone was performed. Dr. Conrad opened the ceremony with prayer, asking the blessing of God on the enterprise. Dr. Ort read the list of articles that were placed in the copper box inside the stone, which were the names of members, and constitutions of the Excelsior and Philosophian Literary societies; the names of the faculty and building committee; a copy of the *Beta Theta Pi*; copy of *Phi Kappa Psi Shield*; and a copy of the *Alpha Tau Omega*; charter and constitution of the college; copy of the *Lutheran Observer*, of the daily *Republic* from May 16th to 23rd; copy of the weekly *Republic*; *The Wittenberger*; *Transcript*; weekly and daily *Globes*; *Springfield Journal*; daily and weekly *Gazettes*; catalogues of the college of 1882-1883; names of the classes of 1882-'83-'84-'85 and '86 and names of the academic department; copy of the Bible; Book of Worship; *Missionary Journal*; and sketches of the lives of the Presidents, Keller and Sprecher.

"Dr. Samuel Sprecher had been chosen to put the box in its place and set the stone. He was the second president and oldest instructor in the faculty. So long had he been connected with the Old, that he very appropriately performed the initial ceremony of the New Wittenberg. Taking the box in his hand, he arose, his frosted hair tossed by the breeze. His voice trembling with emotion, he said: 'About an ordinary generation ago we laid the cornerstone of old Wittenberg in what was then almost a wilderness. Today in a changed scene we place in position that of the new. The old as well as the

new was dedicated to the cause of religion and science. Since the time of Melancthon, 'the school master of Germany', and of Luther, 'the man of the people', it has been the custom of the church to unite the promulgation of religion and science symbolically in the scheme of Christian education. We lay the corner-stone of the new Wittenberg in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, the God of Christians, and in the interest of true religion and true science.' He then offered a few words of prayer, asking the blessing of God upon the undertaking and promoters of the enterprise.

"The box was then slid in position and the stone put in place. Dr. Sprecher gave each corner three taps with the hammer, Dr. Ort pronounced the benediction, and the corner-stone of the new Wittenberg was laid. This was a day of great joy on 'college hill' and all the sons and daughters of Wittenberg were filled with rejoicing.

"The brick work of the superstructure was pushed forward all summer and was finished and under roof by the last of December. The windows were put in awhile later, and the building was closed up for want of funds to keep the men at work until the spring of 1886, when the work was again resumed and the building finished and dedicated June 16, 1886. The dedicatory exercises were held on the college campus. In the afternoon at half-past two o'clock a large concourse of people had gathered there for the occasion. Dr. J. B. Helwig, the third president of Wittenberg, made the dedicatory address, in which he reviewed the history of the past, and spoke of the changes that had taken place in the past six years. . . . Oscar T. Martin was next introduced and made an eloquent address on behalf of the citizens of Springfield and Clark county . . . Then Professor Prince, the chairman of the Building committee and superintendent of the construction of the new building, made a short address concerning the work



PRESIDENT SAMUEL A. ORT, D.D., LL.D. 1882-1900

and gave the statement of the financial condition of the affairs, showing that the contract had been at first taken at about \$63,000, of which nearly \$60,000 had been contributed by the citizens of Springfield and Clark county, Ohio."¹

The first public meeting held in the new building was the baccalaureate service, conducted in the new chapel, on June 13, 1886. The following fall, classes were held in Recitation Hall, as the new edifice was named. Laboratories were moved to the new building, as were the literary societies and the college library.² The societies spent considerable sums of money to carpet and decorate their halls in the choicest manner. In September of 1886, the co-eds organized a literary society which took the name, Euterpean. The three organizations then inaugurated the practice of presenting a monthly program for the benefit of the public. These programs were appreciated, and for many years the societies continued to gain in strength and prestige. Eventually, however, the organizations went out of existence.

With the removal of class rooms from the original building, that edifice became a men's dormitory, with dining hall and kitchen on the first floor. It is interesting to learn that in 1886 the charge for board was \$1.90 per week to those who did not drink coffee or tea. Students wishing to indulge in those beverages paid ten cents per week additional for the privilege.

The erection of the second college building had far-reaching effects upon Wittenberg. It doubled the facilities, thus increasing the academic efficiency as well as making dormitory accommodations more comfortable. Having two large

1. Clark, *op. cit.*, pp. 41 ff.

2. The college library, combined with the libraries of the literary societies, now numbered 9,000 volumes.

and impressive buildings did much to strengthen the morale of faculty and students who could now take greater pride in the institution. As the physical plant expanded, Wittenberg became more firmly rooted to its location in Springfield, especially following the enthusiastic response of local citizens to the financial campaign which resulted in the erection of Recitation Hall. These developments encouraged the friends of the college, and made the future seem bright with promise.

Chapter XII

Progress Is Accelerated

The story of "New Wittenberg" has carried the reader to the year 1886. It is necessary now to go back a few years in order to learn of some changes, other than physical, which occurred at Wittenberg during the opening years of Doctor Ort's presidency. Samuel Ort was a man of initiative, conceiving original plans and carrying them to completion. Soon after he was inaugurated, a number of important academic changes were made at the college. In his first year, a normal school was opened as an experiment. It proved to be too expensive, however, as the tuition of students registering in that department did not cover departmental expenses. Since state normal schools were in existence by this time and were attracting the great majority of students who desired to enroll in a special teacher-training course, Wittenberg after a few years abandoned this venture.¹

A post-graduate department was organized in 1883. In this action Wittenberg was following the educational pattern of the day, for graduate schools were being instituted at many colleges and universities. They met the need for specially trained men and women in the various professions, in the field of science, and in other pursuits. Later a distinction was

1. Later, the enactment of state laws, requiring that all who taught in the public schools should be properly trained and should meet certain standards, led to the reopening of a teacher-training department. It has been very successful and is functioning now as a well-established part of the college program.

to emerge between colleges and universities, with only the latter retaining graduate schools. In 1883, however, that distinction had not yet emerged. Some small colleges retain to this day the name of University in their title, this being a retention of an earlier concept. Wittenberg's post-graduate school of 1883 consisted of four courses as follows: natural science, leading to a Doctor of Science degree; mathematics, mental philosophy, classics and the history of Greece and Rome, all leading to a Doctor of Philosophy degree.

President Ort, in presenting the faculty report to the Board of Directors in June of 1883, made seven important recommendations:

First, the addition to the present curriculum of the college of a post-graduate course.

Second, the increase of tuition.

Third, the division of the college year into three terms.

Fourth, that provision be immediately made for the accommodation of lady students, in the form of a board and rooming hall.

Fifth, that measures be taken to increase the corps of teachers in the theological department, and make it correspond, in this respect, with other schools of a like kind.

Sixth, that the course of instruction in theology extend through three years.

Seventh, that the Board authorize the faculty to give to young lady students completing the course, a diploma appropriate to that department.¹

These recommendations involved some major changes in the affairs of the college and in its curriculum, but they were indicative of life and vigor in the institution. The proposal concerning the graduate school was adopted, being developed in four departments as previously described. It was not many

1. Third Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 87, 88.

years until the Board re-examined this procedure, with the result that the graduate school was discontinued, and with it the granting of the earned doctor's degree.

In regard to tuition, the Board passed a resolution increasing the rates to \$39.00 per annum, this sum to include incidental fees.

Complying with a faculty recommendation, the college year was divided into three terms; fall, winter and summer.

The Board agreed that steps should be taken immediately to provide ways and means for the erection of a building to accommodate women students. Many years passed before an adequate women's dormitory was secured, although a temporary solution to the problem soon materialized. Near the end of the school year of 1888-1889 a frame structure was erected, costing about ten thousand dollars for the building and furnishings. It provided accommodations for twenty-two girls, a housemother, and a caretaker, and contained as well a parlor, a music room and a dining hall. The first woman to take charge of a girls' dormitory at Wittenberg was Mrs. Jennie H. Reamer, of Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

The fifth recommendation of the president and faculty called for alterations in the theological curriculum. This led to a lengthy discussion by the Board regarding the possible removal of the seminary from Springfield, an issue which once again had been raised. This time Wittenberg had been asked to relinquish its theological department by removing it to Chicago in order to form the basis of a theological school to serve also the western section of the church. The Board gave much time to the consideration of this proposition, with the result that the following decision was reached:

Resolved, that this Board signify its willingness to transfer the theological department of the college to Chicago provided that the Synods interested in the establishment of a theological seminary in that place obligate themselves to support one additional professor, and to assist in procuring support from the church at large for a third professor; and provided, further, that the rights of the Board to hold and administer the endowment of its own professorship shall not be impaired by the transfer; but, that until such transfer be consummated, we recommend to the Alumni Association of the college that they undertake the support of the professorship in English literature, with the funds already in their hands, supplemented by whatever amount may be required for the present out of the funds of the Board, and the funds now set apart for the support of said professor be devoted to the support of a third professor in the theological department.

Resolved, that the course of instruction in theology extend through three years.¹

The proposal to remove the seminary was presently abandoned, but the other stipulations in the Board resolutions became effective. However, the Alumni Association would not agree to the support of a professor on the basis of the proposed plan. In a few years the need of such an arrangement passed, for the seminary was to receive substantial help from another source. The other two recommendations of the president were adopted by the Board, including the one which added a third year to the theological course.

One of the longer terms of service to Wittenberg came to an end in June, 1884, when Samuel Sprecher presented his resignation to the Board. After serving for a quarter-century as president, he had continued for another ten years as professor of systematic theology. Although advanced in age at this time, having reached his seventy-seventh birthday, Sprecher lived at the home of his daughter in San Diego, Cali-

1. Third Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 89, 90.



The Class of 1890, with Dr. E. F. Smith. Picture taken during sophomore year 1887-1888 by Mr. Walter Pierce of Springfield, Ohio

LOWER ROW, seated:

J. T. Penfield, D. W. Ramey, Wilbur E. Irvine, B. S. Sheeder, S. A. Zimbeck, W. R. Stewart, W. S. Sigmund.

SECOND ROW, kneeling:

C. M. Wachter, A. A. Rider, P. T. Lazarus, J. A. Hedges, T. V. Crabill.

TOP ROW, standing:

Dr. E. F. Smith, Sallie Breckenridge, Mary Baer, W. M. Habey, G. C. Smith, Ben Hiller, J. M. Bramkamp, Pearl Jones, Walter Pierce.



Class of 1891. Taken in September, 1887, on day when class was organized. Dr. Ehrenfeld and Dr. Prince were the class sponsors.

FIRST ROW, seated:

M. O. Felker, Rufus A. Halverstdt, Herbert J. Weaver, Marion Mohler, Not identified, Irvin Falconer, Charles E. Rice, Harry R. Gelwicks.

SECOND ROW, standing:

C. L. Ehrenfeld, Hanna Archdeacon, Harvey M. Leech, Lillian Decker, N. J. Hadley, Grace Prince, Carrie Decker, Frank S. Delo, B. F. Prince.

fornia for another nineteen years. In accepting his resignation, the Board conferred upon him the title of Professor Emeritus.

After the establishment of the first two fraternities at Wittenberg a number of years went by before other Greek letter societies appeared on the campus. In 1883 the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity installed Ohio Alpha Psi chapter at the college. The following year Sigma chapter of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity was established. This gave the college four fraternities of national reputation. All four groups have had a continuous existence at Wittenberg since the date of their founding.

In 1884 the Young Men's Christian Association was organized at Wittenberg by a group of students who had been holding religious services on the campus. For several years some of the students had been convening weekly in a prayer meeting, held in addition to the regular chapel services which members of the faculty conducted daily. A fairly large group of these students attended the state convention of the Young Men's Christian Association of Ohio in Dayton in 1884. They were so impressed by the aims and the program of the Y. M. C. A. that they effected a local organization, affiliated with the national association. At that time the Y. M. C. A. strongly emphasized a religious program for the students. A member of the Wittenberg Y. M. C. A. in 1887 described the organization in these words: "The Bible is the text book. The officers are elected for one year. At the beginning of the collegiate year the committees are appointed for membership, devotional, missionary, general religious work, and such other things as are needing attention. The study of the Bible in its different phases leads to a higher appreciation of the worth and value of its teachings. An hour's study one evening each week is given to this feature. The demand that is

being made for a better knowledge of the English Bible is being satisfied. The history of the Book, the occasion of the writing, the central idea, its connection with humanity, its fulfillment, and such things as these are studied and better understood.

"The missionary meetings serve as a very important means of keeping constantly before the minds of the young men the great need of more missionaries.

"The Association at Wittenberg College was organized with about fifteen members. During the collegiate year of '84 and '85 the membership reached about thirty. In the next year it again doubled and reached the number of sixty. During the vacation of '86 the Association contributed about forty dollars to defray the traveling expenses of Fred L. Sigmund, their delegate, to attend Mr. Moody's Bible School, held at Mt. Herman, Massachusetts, in the month of July. In the opening of this present collegiate year (1886-1887) much enthusiasm was manifested in the Christian work, and the Association has a membership of nearly ninety. Throughout the year the weekly prayer meeting has been well attended. Four special Bible Classes have been maintained. A Foreign Mission Band, consisting of eleven young men who have signified their willingness to go into the foreign work, has been formed, and holds regular monthly meetings.

"For the last three years, during the winter term, special meetings have been held daily for several weeks. These revival meetings have resulted in much good, and some of the most earnest young men in the institution, now preparing for the ministry, are the direct result of these efforts.

"In the year now closing the Association for the first time in its history secured permanent rooms. In occupying the new building the society halls in the old building were

left vacant. The ones formerly occupied by the Excelsiors is now under their control, in connection with the ante-room of the same. The Sunday School of the First Lutheran Church of Springfield has presented them with a handsome Palace chapel organ. The Association has already raised nearly two hundred dollars for the purpose of seating, lighting and heating the hall."¹

In 1884 Wittenberg's first weekly was printed, but it lasted for only twenty-five issues. It was called *The Stylus*.²

Organization of the Euterpean Literary Society for Women at Wittenberg has already been mentioned. Nine young ladies became charter members, viz., Mary Baer, Clara Blazier, Sallie Breckenridge, Esther A. Crawford, Lulu Cumback, Louise Myers, Flora Prince, Grace Prince, Lillie Stough. The first officers, elected in 1886, were Esther Crawford, president; Ada McIntyre, vice-president; Lillie Stough, secretary; Louise Myers, treasurer. A few months later the following officers were added as the membership increased to sixteen: Eva Atkinson and Lizzie Wilson, critics; Flora Prince, monitor; Mary Baer, chaplain. For a few months meetings were held semi-monthly but before the close of the school year in which the group was organized, four more members were secured and meetings were held weekly, the same as the two men's literary societies.³

President Ort's aggressive leadership became manifest again in 1887 when he presented a lengthy report of the faculty to the Board of Directors. His statements included

1. Article written by E. Lee Fleck, see Clark, *op. cit.*, pp. 78 ff.

2. A second attempt at a student weekly was to be made in 1894 when *The Wasp* was printed for more than a year. From 1894 until 1915 *The Wittenberger* was a well-established student weekly. In 1914 *The Torch* was printed as a rival publication and took over the field one year later. From the year 1916 *The Wittenberger* has been published as an annual. Wittenberg's many short-lived humorous magazines have included the *Half-Witt*, *Smootho's Digest*, *The Rap*, and the *Wittenberg Witt*, which had the longest life of any, appearing from 1922 to 1942.

3. Soon a second literary society for women, known as the *Olympian*, was formed. It possessed strength for a time but eventually disbanded. In the month of January, 1889, three literary societies were organized in the Preparatory Department. The three united in a few months with the name *Alcyone Society*, and for a number of years prepared younger students for membership in the college societies.

a number of recommendations which involved new procedures at Wittenberg. Doctor Ort's spirit can be caught from reading some of the sentences in that report:

"Higher Christian education is one of the chief concerns of the present time. Its importance to the state and to the church, not for the present merely, but more especially for the future, cannot be easily overstated. This is clearly recognized by educators throughout the land. During the past twenty years marked advancement has been made in this field of human activity. There has been a steady reaching forward after large attainments Institutions of learning everywhere are putting forth the most vigorous efforts to keep abreast of the general progress of the times, and more, to be in the forefront of the onward movement of the age They are enlarging their facilities. They are improving their accommodations. They are increasing their endowment by large sums. They are advancing the standing of the college course, and they are providing various financial methods by which to secure students To this state of affairs our college need not be indifferent.

"It must fall into line and keep step to the music of the onward march of the day. To hesitate, to halt or go lingering along will soon force Wittenberg to the rear. And this must not be. This college has a right to be. The cause for which it exists is the greatest of causes. It involves the highest well-being of man, both for time and eternity. Christian education and the gospel go hand in hand. The one cultures the head, the other the heart. But the work of this college has not been finished. It is scarcely begun. We, the friends of Wittenberg are charged with a high duty, a grave responsibility. It is no light matter that our fathers have put in our keeping, and as an object of our life's best endeavor, the continuance and upbuilding of Wittenberg College. It is a great trust that has been committed to our care and one whose growth demands our truest devotion and mightiest effort. To shift the burden to our children under the notion that we have done enough will not meet the responsibility that is ours.

"Only when we have done the most that it is possible for us to do in our lifetime with the strength and talents and money

God has given us, can we truly say that we have discharged our duty and met the claims of responsibility

"Wittenberg College has needs today, pressing needs, and more than ever before. What are they?

1. There is the need of more instructors in the collegiate and preparatory departments.

2. The need of a Ladies Hall.

3. The need of a music department.

4. The need of additional endowment.

"The one thing absolutely essential in order that these needs may be met is money."¹

In connection with the fourth item, Ort recommended "that a hundred thousand dollars be raised as additional endowment, and that this undertaking be commenced at once."

Following the presentation of the above report, the instructors in the theological department² read a paper to the Board of Directors. In it they stated their views in regard to the pressing needs of the seminary. The Directors were reminded that a chief design of those who established Wittenberg was the preparation of young men for the ministry. They were told that no first-class seminary now had less than three professors who devoted all their time to theological courses, and that a course of theology which answered fifty years ago was no longer sufficient. In order to strengthen the theological department of the institution they thought two things should be done just as soon as possible:

"First, that the number of professors be increased at least by one, who shall give his whole time to the work of theological instruction.

"Second, that a separate building be provided for theological students, and for use by the professors. The professors of the theological department further ask that the instructors in the

1. Third Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 178-180.

2. Those instructors were S. A. Ort, and J. W. Richard, who taught at Wittenberg for three years.

theological department be constituted a faculty distinct from the faculty of the collegiate department. Also, that to the theological faculty be committed the work of securing funds for a new building and additional endowment of theological instruction.”¹

Members of the Board showed an instant willingness to cooperate in most of the proposals of President Ort. They approved all recommendations of the report of the college faculty except the one pertaining to a campaign for one hundred thousand dollars. They thought such a matter called for some deliberation, and suggested the appointment of a committee to give full consideration to the subject and to report at the next meeting of the Board. Ultimately the idea was rejected in favor of a “basket collection.”² The recommendations concerning the seminary were not discussed until the Board met again in June of 1887, when consideration was given only to the possibility of adding a third professor. It was voted at that time to “proceed at once to complete the endowment of the Doctor Sprecher professorship, and in so doing” to recommend that “one dollar at least be secured from each member of our churches on the territory of Wittenberg College.”³

In the month of December, 1887, the Board of Directors were called together in a special session to consider the proposition of an alumnus of Wittenberg, the Reverend M. W. Hamma. He offered a gift of five thousand dollars in real estate for the purpose of erecting a building for the theological department. The donation was presented on certain conditions: first, that the building be erected during the ensuing year; secondly, that according to the suggestion of President Ort, the building be named Hamma Divinity Hall; third, that

1. Third Journal of Board Minutes, p. 184.

2. The proposal was to establish the first Sunday in January as the day on which a collection should be received in all the congregations on the Wittenberg territory, these offerings to be forwarded to the college for general college use. The Directors believed that the time was not opportune for a financial campaign, and hoped that by the spread of the practice of an annual offering from each congregation the support of the college would be increased.

3. Third Journal of Board Minutes, p. 202.

besides the regular three year course in theology, opportunity be given for taking a shorter course. The last suggestion sprang from the conviction of Doctor Hamma that there might be many men in their early thirties who would be willing to turn from their chosen careers to the ministry if they could be adequately trained in less than three years time. The younger men, it was thought, should complete the prescribed three-year course of study.

The building which was erected under these stipulations was occupied in the fall of 1890. To the five thousand dollars presented by Hamma there was added another fifty-five hundred dollars, contributed by various individuals who were interested in obtaining a seminary building for Wittenberg. The final cost was ten thousand eight hundred forty dollars. This edifice stood on the campus for only eleven years when it was destroyed by fire. Insurance covered about half of the loss, whereupon M. W. Hamma generously made up the difference, to permit the replacement of the original structure. In 1891 he gave the college thirty thousand dollars. A decade later, he was to present Wittenberg with one of the largest gifts that the college had ever received, specifying that the entire sum was to be devoted to the theological department, or seminary. The original gift of five thousands dollars, small as it was in comparison with later tokens of his generosity, was of primary importance. It furnished the seminary with a separate building and gave it a more distinctive place in the life and curriculum of Wittenberg. Interest in the seminary, and support of it, increased from that time forth.

The seminary took its next great stride forward in the year 1888. To the regret of all, after serving for three years on the theological faculty, Professor J. W. Richard, D.D., tendered his resignation. He had accepted a position in the Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg, from which he had grad-

uated a number of years before. When the duty of replacing him was considered by the Board, the decision was reached to call two men instead of one, thus greatly strengthening the teaching staff of the seminary. The Board turned to two men who were displaying marked ability in the active ministry, the Reverend L. A. Gotwald, D.D., of Springfield, Ohio, and the Reverend George M. Heindel, D.D., of Wooster, Ohio. When Heindel declined, a call was offered to the Reverend S. F. Breckenridge, Sc.D., who at the time was completing his fourteenth year on the college faculty where he taught mathematics and logic. These two men were inaugurated during the Board meeting in June of 1889. The directors divided the work of the professors in the seminary, stipulating that the three chairs should be as follows: systematic theology, exegetical theology, and practical theology.¹

Wittenberg's School of Music dates from the year 1887. Prior to that time arrangement had been made, for those who wished to study music in addition to their college work, to have instruction given by teachers in Springfield. Two years after its inception the music department had sixteen students enrolled for one or more courses. Two years later two men were required as instructors for the forty-eight students in the department. In 1891 Professor H. O. Farnum appeared before the Board to report in person on the advance made by the college in the field of music, of which he had charge. He stated that the pupils had "received instruction in piano and organ playing, singing in harmony, in theoretical and historical branches. The grade of work has ranged from the most elementary to that, in some departments, sufficient to entitle the students to graduate. The students of this department have given several recitals, exhibiting an entirely satisfactory degree of progress Four pianos have been in constant use by

1. See Third Journal of Board Minutes, p. 241.

students for practising.”¹

The first Men's Glee Club was founded in 1887 with sixteen members. In 1895 the first college orchestra was organized. Some of Wittenberg's contributions to the field of music are to receive attention in chapters dealing with later years of the college life.

Action of the men students, some years earlier, in forming a Y.M.C.A., was followed by the women on the campus who, on October 9, 1889, organized a Young Women's Christian Association. Twenty members formed the initial group, with Miss Lillie Raup as their president. In 1892 the state Y.W.C.A. convention was held on the Wittenberg campus.

College students of the present day, accustomed to seeing the great crowd attracted by football contests overshadowing in size all other gatherings of the school year, would be surprised by the interest centering in forensic contests in 1890. On February 20 of that year Wittenberg was host to the ninth annual Ohio State Intercollegiate oratorical contest, held in the Grand Opera House at Springfield. The contest had all the features of a prominent football game of today. One hundred and fifty students and professors came by train from Delaware to support the Ohio Wesleyan speaker. Buchtel (now Akron University), Denison, Marietta, Oberlin and Ohio University sent delegations to cheer their representatives. Ohio State University was just a youngster in the educational world but had fifty rooters present. Wittenbergers turned out *en masse*.

In place of band music which entertains football crowds between the halves, the Wittenberg glee club presented choral numbers between orations.

After the contest the guests went to the Arcade Hotel for

1. Third Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 323, 324.

a great banquet. The college paper relates that "the guests marched into the banquet hall to the entrancing music of Professor Rigio's harp. The banquet hall with its magnificent surroundings, the festal board with its beautiful service, the large number of ladies fair, their elegant costumes, and last but not least the choice menu, proved it to be indeed a brilliant affair College colors and jewelled fraternity pins adorned the coat of nearly every man."

Winner of the contest that year was Robert Tucker, representing Buchtel, who spoke on "Democracy, the Dominant Idea." Before the day of "All American" selections, he was greeted as a hero when he returned to the Akron campus. Bells were rung, cannons were fired and eight pages of the campus journal were devoted to an account of his life. That was a day when oratory was definitely a *cause celebre* in American college life.

Schools of the first rank were constantly turning to the Wittenberg faculty to secure teachers for their institutions. In 1889 Professor Edgar Fahs Smith, Ph.D., resigned the chair of science to join the staff of the University of Pennsylvania, where he later rose to the position of Provost. Wittenberg had been proud of its science professor and was most reluctant to see him leave. Samuel S. Keller, professor of mathematics, was later called to the Carnegie Institute of Technology at Pittsburgh. The salaries paid to Wittenberg professors have not been as high as they should be, nor as tempting as those which the stronger schools could offer, with the result that many a Wittenberg professor, through the years, has accepted the offer to join the teaching staff at one or another of the outstanding universities.

The resignation of E. F. Smith led to the election of one of his brilliant young students, A. F. Linn. Later he became Doctor A. F. Linn, as he earned his doctor's degree at Johns

Hopkins University. Professor Linn spent the rest of his life at Wittenberg, being a great credit to the institution and by his long tenure of service establishing himself as one of the outstanding men in the history of the college. Shortly after joining the Wittenberg faculty he received a tempting offer from the University of Pennsylvania but he declined it when the administration at Wittenberg urged him to remain with his Alma Mater. No history of the college would be true in recording facts if it did not repeat at intervals the truth that many professors have made great personal sacrifices and have refused financial gain in order to render unselfish and devoted service to Wittenberg.

Chapter XIII

New Buildings and Campus Improvements

The last ten years of Ort's presidency found Wittenberg's property modernized, its campus and buildings put in good condition, and several new structures erected. First of the new buildings was a simple one, a small, frame edifice to be used as a gymnasium, provided at the request of the faculty to meet student needs.

Physical education really had its inception at Wittenberg in 1892. Previous to that time the students among themselves had engaged in such sport as baseball. The site on which Recitation Hall was erected was formerly the spot where students gathered to enjoy a ball game. Classes sometimes opposed one another in some sport. Now and then, across the years, drilling and calisthenics were tried by the students. But at a meeting of the Board in 1889 the faculty reported their desire to see a gymnasium erected. Because of this suggestion, approval was given to the motion that "a gymnasium be provided for the students at a cost of one thousand dollars and that the students be asked to cooperate in providing the necessary funds."¹ Student cooperation was sought in conducting a canvass to secure subscriptions for the gymnasium. With the help of professors and board members a total of fourteen hundred dollars was raised. This plain, modest struc-

1. Third Journal of Board Minutes, p. 257.

ture later, remodeled and removed to a new location, served as the college gymnasium until 1930.

With the erection of the gymnasium, a student athletic fee was charged and a physical instructor hired. First to be appointed to this position with the title of instructor in physical culture, was Benjamin G. Printz. He came to Wittenberg in 1892 from Xenia, Ohio, where he had served as instructor in the gymnasium of the Y.M.C.A.

At the same time that the motion was passed relative to a gymnasium, the Board voted to make extensive repairs to the original college building. The cost of this project was \$3,134.57 but as a result of the expenditure the building presented a new appearance. The present cupola was erected; water was piped into the building, and sanitary equipment and shower baths were installed; walls were painted both outside and within; all window sashes were replaced with new material; in two of the long hallways new floors were laid; new stairways were installed and the roof was repaired. The number of accommodations had to be increased to meet a greater demand, so what had formerly been used as a chapel, as well as some of the space formerly occupied by the literary societies, was made over into dormitory rooms. Because of these added conveniences and improvements the room rent was raised from seven dollars and fifty cents to nine dollars per year.

Improvement of the campus was agreed upon, also. Plans which were evolved did not materialize, however, as the money with which to bring about the desired results was not available. To some extent the beauty of the college grounds was enhanced by cleaning out some of the undergrowth and by planting trees to replace those which had died or had become disfigured.

Situated a few rods northeast of the first college building, just beyond the eastern line of the campus, was the com-

modious home owned by Doctor Sprecher, in which he had lived while president and professor. In 1890 he offered to sell the property to the college for six thousand dollars. The Board countered with the following offer: that Doctor Sprecher receive three hundred dollars per year during his lifetime, as professor emeritus of the college, and that he be paid five thousand dollars for the property in ten annual notes of five hundred dollars each, with six per cent interest after maturity. In this way more ground was added to the campus and the college came into possession of another building.

In his faculty report of June, 1891, President Ort announced that Wittenberg was to have another building. "We rejoice to say that another building is now under way of erection," he told the Board of Directors. "This is a library hall and will stand as the memorial of Reverend Joseph Clark Zimmerman, given by his family, the representative of which is an active and efficient member of this Board—John L. Zimmerman, Esq.

"The Library Hall will be finished and occupied at the opening of the fall term. We move that this Board by resolution express its high appreciation of the gift tendered, and give to Brother Zimmerman and his family heartfelt thanks."¹ Construction required a little longer time than the president had predicted, with the result that the building was not occupied until the summer of 1892. At that time the libraries of the Excelsior and the Philosophian Literary Societies were added to the collection owned by the college, and the whole became a single library available to all. The new edifice, crowning a rise at the rear of the college grounds, near the new Hamma Hall, was appropriately named Zimmerman Library. It strengthened Wittenberg's academic standing, and

1. Later, as the number of books increased, the library building was extended on the west, in order to accommodate both the greater supply of books and the larger number of students who were taking advantage of the library. This extension was made possible by a further gift from the Zimmerman family.

gave the college a fifth building to grace the campus. Zimmerman Library has stood as a worthy memorial to a Lutheran clergyman who was called from his labors in early manhood. The name of Zimmerman, from that time on, was to become increasingly important in Wittenberg's history.

Dedication exercises for Zimmerman Library were conducted on June 22, 1892, in charge of President Ort. A large gathering witnessed the ceremonies in which John L. Zimmerman represented his family, speaking of the devotion of individuals to Wittenberg during years now past, and pledging continued interest of the Zimmerman family to the developing college and seminary. He then presented the key of the building to Doctor Ort, who spoke of Wittenberg's appreciation of such a beautiful memorial and of so useful a gift. The final speaker was Doctor Jacob A. Clutz, president of Midland College. Taking as his subject, "Lutheran Colleges in This Country and Their Struggles," he presented a message which received high praise from those who heard it.

Another forward step was taken in the purchase of a piece of land, adjoining college property, to the north of the seminary building. Ground was thus secured for a small athletic field. The erection of the gymnasium, the inception of a department of physical education, and the natural desire of students for athletics, had led to the need for such a field. In response to a student petition, requesting a suitable place for playing games and engaging in inter-collegiate contests, the Board had approved of the idea of securing an athletic field. Because of the interest of Mr. Zimmerman in athletics, the field was named Zimmerman Field in his honor. The writer will never forget the picture of John L. Zimmerman, who seemed to be present at every athletic contest, pacing the sidelines at a football game, or peering out from beneath shaggy eyebrows at the basket-ball contests. The interest which

he showed in Wittenberg sports early in his life, remained with him when he was well advanced in years. He was known by all Wittenbergers for many student generations.

Doctor Ort was able to report encouraging information to the Board in June, 1892:

"The past collegiate year has been one of encouraging progress. The largest number of students enrolled at any one time during the history of the college has been placed on the register of '91 and '92. Their classification is as follows: Seniors, 19; Juniors, 29; Sophomores, 29; Freshmen, 40; Select, 20; Sub-Freshmen, 39; Primary, 95; Music, 67; Art, 29; Theologians, 25. Total, less names repeated (38), 363 The gymnasium has been equipped with an excellent class of apparatus, and an instructor employed With but few exceptions Wittenberg has now a gymnastic outfit superior to other institutions in the state. The music department has, during the year, been in a flourishing state The Faculty are of the opinion that the time is at hand when something should be authorized by the Board which will place this school on a more permanent basis and make it a source of revenue to the college. To accomplish this end, two things are necessary: 1.—The provision of a building exclusively for music and art purposes, and the employment of a Director The art department is doing praiseworthy work and should also be afforded better advantages."¹

The Seminary, which had been making marked progress for several years, was jolted severely in 1893 by the trial of L. A. Gotwald, member of the faculty, on the charge of having departed from the doctrinal basis of the General Synod. Among the more liberal groups in Wittenberg's constituency, uneasiness was felt concerning the trend of theological teaching. D. H. Bauslin had offered motions to the Board at its meeting in 1892 calling for an endorsement of the Lutheran doctrines as stated by the General Synod at York, Pennsylvania, in 1864. This reaffirmation of its adherence to

1. Third Journal of Board Minutes, pp. 345, 346.

General Synod doctrines did not appease the critics of the Board, however, and the issue was brought to a head when specific charges were made by a group of men against one of the theological professors. On February 27, 1893, the following communication was mailed to all members of the Wittenberg Board of Directors:

Dear Brother:

There will be a called meeting of the Board of Directors of Wittenberg College on Tuesday, April 4, 1893, at 2:00 P. M. in the college building, Springfield, Ohio, for the purpose of hearing testimony and taking action concerning certain charges against Professor L. A. Gotwald, D.D., Professor of Practical Theology in Wittenberg Theological Seminary, preferred by A. Gebhart, J. Gebhart, and E. E. Baker. The importance of the business to engage the attention of the Board makes it highly important that every member be present.¹

(signed) D. H. Bauslin, Secretary.

John L. Zimmerman, President.

The trial was conducted in an executive session of the Board of Directors. Charges were made by the three accusers who advanced seven points wherein, they alleged, Professor Gotwald was teaching in the spirit of the General Council rather than in the spirit of the General Synod, to which body the churches supporting Wittenberg belonged.²

The seven points made by the accusers of Doctor Gotwald were all stated in general terms and were exceedingly vague. They came nearest to being specific in their allegation that the professor was influencing his students not to offer the Holy Communion to all who might desire to receive it, but to restrict

1. *Ibid.*, pp. 374, 375.

2. The two general bodies had separated in 1867, with the General Council drawing to itself the more conservative elements in the General Synod. For an account of causes leading to the disruption of the General Synod and the formation of the General Council, see Neve, *History of the Lutheran Church in America*. In 1918 the two groups came together again, along with the General Synod of the South, to form the United Lutheran Church in America. As the twentieth century approached, the two groups were drawing closer together, one of the omens of future union being this very trial at which a General Synod professor of theology was accused of harboring the views of the General Council.

it to those whose doctrinal views were similar to their own. The fear of the accusers was that Wittenberg was turning from liberal Lutheranism to an exclusive and conservative spirit.

The statements, or charges, were so indefinite and so lacking in substantiation that the Board, by a vote taken on each of the seven charges, decided that the prosecution would have to be made more specific. This, the three men who had brought the charges refused to do. Thereupon the accusations were restated in a shorter form and in a more direct manner by a committee appointed for that purpose. Doctor Gotwald then testified in his own defense. Those who had made the original allegations refused to testify in spite of the fact that the Board had been convened for the purpose of hearing them. All that was said and done cannot be reported but is available elsewhere for those who are interested.¹ In the end the directors voted unanimously against sustaining any of the seven charges and so L. A. Gotwald was acquitted. The three accusers failed to vote, thus accounting for the unanimity of the balloting. One result of the trial, it has been stated, was to strengthen conservative Lutheranism at Wittenberg.² It may be that animosities stirred up by the trial prevented Wittenberg from receiving some financial support which otherwise would have been given.³ Certainly the whole episode was one to retard and impede the advance of the institution by arousing emotions, dividing to some extent the supporters of the school, and leaving all who were in any way concerned in a bad state of mind. L. A. Gotwald continued to serve on the theological faculty for another four years when he suffered a stroke which paralyzed his limbs and eventually

1. An official stenographer was hired to record all statements and testimony given at the trial. Fifteen hundred copies of this record were published under the title, "*The Trial of L. A. Gotwald.*"

2. See Neve, *op. cit.*, p. 136.

3. Perhaps these losses were more than equalled by gifts from those who approved the evident trend. In 1894 Mrs. Elizabeth Harter of Canton, Ohio, gave Wittenberg \$25,000 to endow a chair in the theology department. Later came the very large Hamma gifts.

led to his death.

Wittenberg entered its fiftieth year with the largest enrollment in history when three hundred and eighty students registered, of whom one hundred forty-one were of college ranking. In many ways the year was a satisfying one for the college administration. Doctor Ort reviewed the year for the Board of Directors, stated that the students were industrious, morale was high, and discipline was good. The president was able to report in 1895 that there was a strong interest in missions among the students. With the increased enrollment, the need for more faculty members was imperative. Four years earlier a committee had been appointed to prepare plans for recognizing Wittenberg's semi-centennial. It was voted to conduct a campaign for increasing the endowment of Wittenberg, and the five synods which supported the institution agreed to raise a total of seventy-five thousand dollars. Instead, however, of producing a semi-centennial gift, the campaign moved at a slow pace and it was several years before a major share of the original goal was realized.

On September 7, 1894, Wittenberg's football team defeated the team representing Ohio State University 6-0 in a game played at the Ohio State Fair. The prize, offered by the Fair Board, was a complete football outfit for each man on the winning team. The return game was played in Springfield on October 13, when Wittenberg won 18-6. Gene Kennedy, playing at the quarterback position, was captain of the '94 team. Wittenberg pioneered in Ohio football, maintaining a regular schedule in 1892. When the college met Earlham in Dayton the game was advertised as the first inter-state contest of its kind.

The fifty-first year of the college proved to be the high point of this period. Student enrollment skyrocketed to five hundred and seventy-five in 1895-1896, with one hundred

ninety-four in the college. The graduating class of 1896 has long been known as one of the outstanding groups to receive diplomas from Wittenberg. It included such men as H. S. Kissell, G. M. Cummings, and Professor John Philip Schneider; also several who distinguished themselves as clergymen: G. B. Schmitt, Elmer Kahl, E. G. Howard, H. E. Simon and others. The class of '96 could boast that "we are contributing Wittenberg's largest graduating class—forty-six in all, twenty-nine men and seventeen women. Second, we've won signal honors in athletics. Third, we're instituting the custom of wearing academic gowns and of planting a bit of ivy at commencement. And fourth, we produced the Semi-Centennial Souvenir, the finest year-book this college has ever seen Our football men were the first to wear regular football togs."¹ They might have added that their class began the practice of having the senior class present a gift to the college as a part of commencement activities. Eighteen men in the class entered the seminary. The greatly increased number of students in 1895-1896 brought in sufficient tuition to enable the college to end the year with a financial balance as well as to pay all of the back salary owed to the professors from the preceding year.

During the school year 1895-1896 Doctor L. A. Gotwald, whose trial has been mentioned, was incapacitated for further teaching by a paralytic stroke. The Board of Directors passed resolutions of sympathy and of regret upon the receipt of his resignation. He had continued to teach since his vindication in the trial a few years earlier. In seeking a successor, President Ort had discussed some of the possible candidates with Mrs. Harter who had endowed a chair in the seminary. As a result of these discussions the man nominated to the chair of practical theology and church history was the Reverend D. H. Bauslin, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Canton, Ohio. At that

1. Wittenberg Centennial Pageant, by Miss McPherson, p. 30.

time he was forty-two years old, was a graduate of Wittenberg College and Seminary, and had served efficiently in several Ohio pastorates. He accepted the call to the seminary where he proved a valuable addition to the faculty. From 1901 to 1912 he was also editor of *The Lutheran World*. He became the first dean of the seminary. Through his many published articles he wielded an influence upon the church at large.

Because of the importance which forensics and public speaking came to possess in student life at Wittenberg, it is worthwhile to note the beginning of this activity as a recognized department in the college. Each Friday, for many years, the several literary societies held their meetings and occasionally engaged in inter-society or inter-collegiate contests. One had to be a member of these societies in order to participate. Furthermore, these activities were extra-curricular, and not a regular part of the academic program. Therefore a number of students, at one time or another, had urged the establishment of a professorship in public speaking. In 1898 an agreement was reached with Professor Frank S. Fox of Columbus whereby he became a part-time instructor in public speaking. He was the first man to fill such a position officially at Wittenberg and for a number of years continued to render acceptable service.

As the nineteenth century drew to a close, it became evident that a change in the administration was approaching. Doctor Ort had led the institution through its most glorious years but his unstinting labors were beginning to take their toll.

The problems of Wittenberg during Doctor Ort's last years in the presidency were very severe. He himself was greatly disheartened, and is said to have declared that Wittenberg was "done for." The small endowment, and the difficulty of meeting current expenses caused him great anxiety. He was a steady visitor of the congregations, preaching and seeking

to raise money. One of Doctor Ort's peculiarities was that he would never use a sleeping car; even when he had long distances to travel he would sit up all night. This made it doubly hard on him when he personally solicited funds or visited congregations as frequently as he had to in those days. It was a hard task which was put upon Wittenberg's presidents—that of seeming to be a constant beggar of funds for the institution. Added to all else, there were some people who made Ort's life very miserable during this period. An extra burden was laid upon his heart with the passing away of his son who was just nearing manhood. Such concern for his welfare was felt by his friends and associates that a committee of the Board brought before the Directors, in June of 1899, a recommendation that Ort be relieved of all duties until January, 1900. He appreciated this thoughtfulness but did not avail himself of the full six months' vacation. Instead, he reached the decision that the time had arrived for him to resign the presidency. When the Board met again in June of 1900, the following message from the president was read:

"I ask that the duties of the presidency and those of the chairs of philosophy and theology be divided and that I be relieved of the former, namely the presidency, this arrangement to take effect the first day of August, 1900, 'or sooner if desired."

Doctor Ort had brought to Wittenberg the talents of a leader. He had succeeded in directing the institution's advance along many lines of progress. The achievements of his administration will always be outstanding in the history of Wittenberg. He was instrumental in greatly enlarging the number of courses offered in the curriculum. Upon his recommendations a school of music, an art department, and a graduate school had been inaugurated. He separated the seminary from the college and greatly strengthened the former in prestige. Five buildings were erected during his term in office, their total value being about one hundred and ten thousand

dollars. More than fifty thousand dollars had been added to the endowment. Three characteristics stand out prominently in the man. He was devout, always carefully watching the moral and spiritual tone of the student life, rejoicing in the choice by young men of the Christian ministry, and eager to encourage an interest in missions. Secondly, he was aggressive, putting energy and vigor behind the plans which he formulated, never content with the present but trying to inspire his contemporaries to strive for greater heights. Finally, he was far-sighted. Doctor Ort was frequently among the first to visualize the worth of trends and possibilities both in the church and in the field of education. He originated plans and put in motion the activity to bring them to reality. His repeated plea to modernize the Wittenberg buildings is one example of his strong desire to keep abreast of the times. One of the last of his accomplishments was that of securing steam heat for the comfort and convenience of those who lived in the men's dormitory.

In accepting the resignation of S. A. Ort as the fourth president of Wittenberg, the Board of Directors passed the following resolution:

"Whereas, Rev. S. A. Ort, D.D., after eighteen years of efficient and faithful service as President of Wittenberg College has resigned with the intention of hereafter devoting himself exclusively to the work of teaching in the institution,

"Therefore, resolved, that this Board hereby give expression to its deep appreciation of his long, unselfish and successful services as the President of the College, and that we are much gratified that the institution is able to retain his services in his professorial capacity."

When he resigned the presidency, Doctor Ort retained his professorship, serving for eleven years in that capacity. When his successor died suddenly in office, Ort headed the institution for a few months, with the title of Dean, until

another president was chosen. Then he was honored with the title of vice-president.¹ Death terminated his career on January 6, 1911, in his sixty-seventh year. He was mourned by a host of friends, several of whom cooperated in issuing a memorial volume of his selected sermons and addresses. A member of the seminary faculty, writing an introduction for the book, said: "The demand upon his time as preacher, teacher and administrator of a college, left to this man but little opportunity for authorship. But what has been collected from his writings for this volume furnishes an idea of what he might have done, had his life been less strenuous, and his opportunity for meditation and writing greater.

"He was a gift from God to the Church in a perplexed and trying time. Many who knew Doctor Ort will be long inspired as they cherish the memory of his truly Christian faith."

1. First created in 1873 as a position entailing mostly duties of a financial nature, the office had not been filled until Doctor Ort accepted it. Later Doctor B. F. Prince held the position for many years. Upon Prince's death the office was once again left vacant.



ZIMMERMAN LIBRARY

PART VI

WITTENBERG ENTERS THE
TWENTIETH CENTURY

Chapter XIV

The Administration of J. M. Ruthrauff

More time and thought was given to the selection of the fifth president of Wittenberg than to any of the preceding incumbents of that office. In the case of Keller, Sprecher, Helwig and Ort there was prompt agreement by members of the Board as to the man who should be called. Now there was no clear perception of a proper successor to Doctor Ort. A special committee, with the Reverend J. F. Shaffer, D.D., as chairman, was appointed to recommend a candidate. After several months, following consideration of a number of individuals, the committee reached agreement upon the Reverend John Mosheim Ruthrauff, D.D. The Board of Directors then received the nomination and voted favorably.

Ruthrauff was the first war veteran to hold Wittenberg's highest position. He was born near the city of Canton, Ohio, on January 13, 1846. His father, an earnest Lutheran, had desired to enter the ministry but poor health and financial stringency had forced him to leave Gettysburg College and to

return to the farm. His uncle was a Lutheran clergyman and when J. M. Ruthrauff entered the Lutheran ministry, he was of the fourth generation in his family to do so. Lured from the farm by the call of the Civil War, young Ruthrauff spent four months in the service, then taught school and attended Mt. Union College for a few years before reaching the decision to become a Lutheran minister. In order to prepare for the ministry he entered Wittenberg College, from which he graduated in 1871. He was ordained a year later, beginning his career by organizing a mission in Louisville, Kentucky. Later he served pastorates at Circleville and Washingtonville, Ohio, and then at Dixon, Illinois. In Illinois his church work was notably successful. His reputation spread as a result of the Rock River Assembly which he helped to establish in 1888. This came to be a well-known summer assembly or chaquetaqua. He served as president from its inception in 1888 until 1895 when he was called to the president's chair at Carthage College.

His five years at Carthage are said to have brought that institution back from the throes of death to new life. His contribution to this Lutheran college probably stands as his greatest monument, for he was taken in death too soon after entering upon his duties at Wittenberg for his work at Springfield to be permanently productive. At Carthage he displayed great practical ability. He possessed good financial sense and strengthened the support of the Illinois college by spending much time among the congregations supporting the school, building friendships and developing greater interest.

This same approach to the constituency was made by Doctor Ruthrauff as president of Wittenberg, to which office he was called from the presidency of Carthage. Prior to his arrival the Board had declared that the president should be relieved of all teaching duties in order to give more time to

visiting the churches on the territory. Many contacts were made during the two years of his presidency. His arrival at Wittenberg has been described thus: "His coming was without blare of trumpets. Indeed, that was characteristic. He cared nothing for the purely spectacular. He set to work at once to study our school, its needs, its weaknesses, and its opportunities. I was more than once surprised by his keen grasp of our situation In everything that touched our complex institutional life, he was both intelligently interested and active He had a masterly way of compelling one to believe him, and that was probably the secret of his success in securing aid."¹

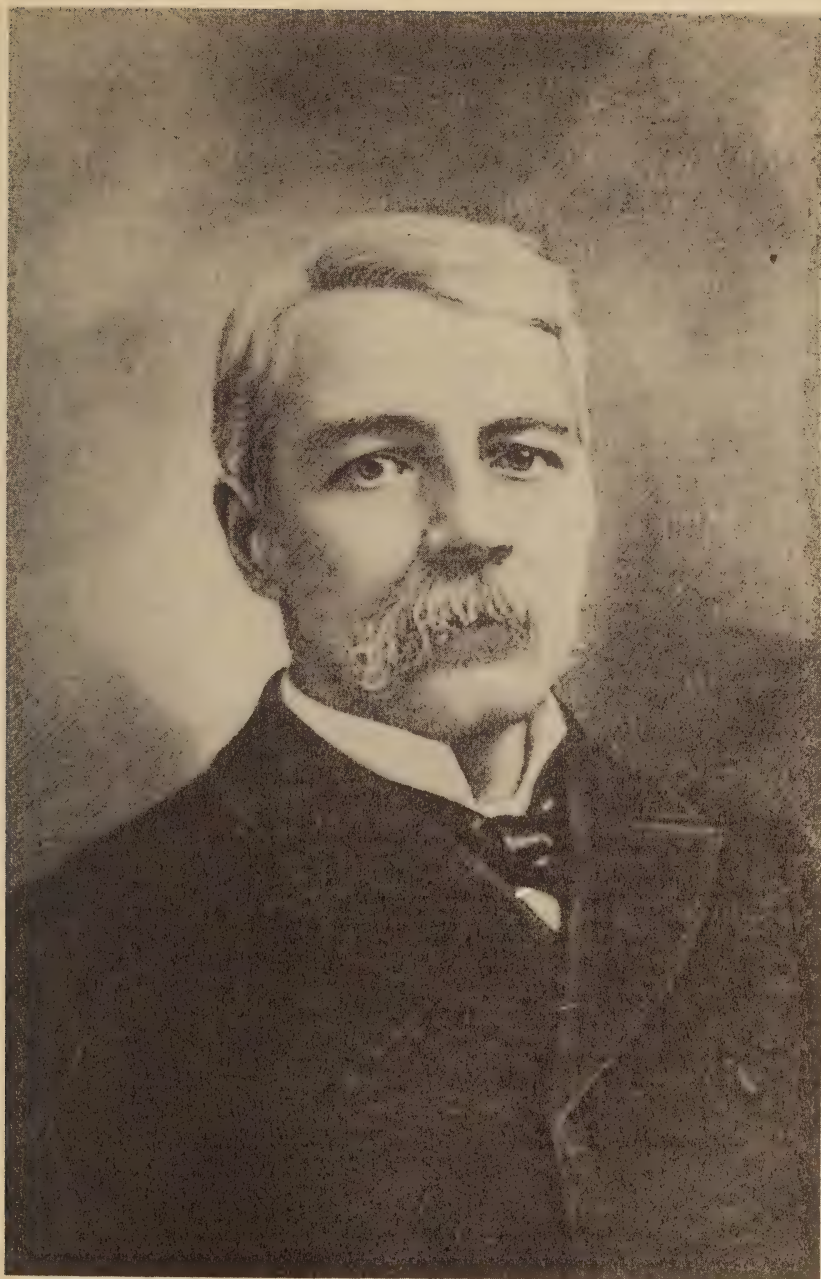
One deficiency of the college Doctor Ruthrauff desired to change immediately. That was the tardiness with which the members of the faculty received their salary. Sometimes the money due to professors was months late in reaching them, especially the salary for the closing months of a school year which was frequently not paid until some time in the following school year. Members of the faculty long remembered this interest which the president took in their financial welfare.

Doctor Ruthrauff arrived at Wittenberg in September, 1900, and just four months later was forced to call the Board of Directors together to inform the members that the seminary building had been destroyed by fire. On December 28, 1900, the brick structure, erected eleven years previously, was made a total ruin. Although the walls of the building were still standing, they had to be torn down. Students living in the seminary had lost most of their belongings and were forced to find new living quarters. Classes in theology had to be transferred to the college building. The dismay of the Directors in learning of this loss was presently removed by the announcement of Doctor M. W. Hamma, the man who had furnished

1. Article written by C. G. Heckert in *The Wittenberger*, May 14, 1902, pp. 330, 331.

the money for the original structure, that he would see that the building was rebuilt without cost to Wittenberg. Construction of the new building began shortly thereafter.

In the last report which he made to the Board of Directors preceding his untimely death, Doctor Ruthrauff made the statement: "I have been greatly hampered in my work by the Seminary fire and then by the necessity for securing the heating plant." These were the two items, other than regular duties of his office, which consumed most of the time and interest of Ruthrauff during his eighteen months as president. Much of the supervision of the erection of the new seminary building was in his hands. In the fall of 1901 it was ready for occupancy and the following spring dedication services were held. From April 30 to May 4, 1902, a series of lectures were presented by prominent educators and leaders in the church. Indicative of the growing unity among Lutherans in America, which was to result in the formation of the United Lutheran Church in America in 1918, was the presence at these exercises of Professor Henry Eyster Jacobs of Mt. Airy Seminary, Professor E. J. Wolf of Gettysburg Theological Seminary, Doctor J. R. Dimm of Susquehanna University, as well as Doctor George H. Schodde of Capital University, President F. L. Sigmund of Carthage College, and Doctor Alfred Hiller of Hartwick Seminary. An address on "The Substantial Unity of the Various Branches of the Lutheran Church in This Country" was presented by the Reverend J. H. Culler, D.D. Doctor H. E. Jacobs, in closing his address on "A Word for the Day," expressed his gratification in the fact that the two great bodies of the Lutheran church, one of which he was officially representing and the other represented by Wittenberg, were more and more uniting in fellowship and friendship. "There may be two wings of the church if there be but one heart that beats between them," he declared. Wittenberg was promoting those cordial relationships which



PRESIDENT JOHN M. RUTHRAUFF, D.D. 1900-1902

were finally to culminate in unity. Among the many others who participated in the dedicatory events of those five days was M. W. Hamma, the generous donor of the building.

In addition to the work involved in erecting the seminary building, the second item which occupied a great amount of the president's time was the procurement of a new heating plant. Doctor Ort had supervised the installation of steam heat in the men's dormitory. Ruthrauff believed that it would be a saving of labor and expense, as well as a great reduction of fire hazard, if certain other college buildings were to be heated by steam from a central heating plant. He urged this upon the Board of Directors and received their consent. This modernizing of the heating system, which was completed the following year, was welcomed by both students and faculty as a great improvement.

In the fall of 1901 the name of Charles G. Shatzer was added to the faculty as a teacher in the academy. He had graduated from the college a year previously and now was commencing a term of service which was to be a long and honorable one in the history of the college.

Another long term of service now came to an end with the resignation of Mr. Alexander Gebhart as treasurer of the institution. He had held that office since 1868, for thirty-three years, and, as stated previously, had served under three presidents. His successor as treasurer was John L. Zimmerman, who like his predecessor was to retain the office for many years.

One of the first innovations to appear after Ruthrauff became president was the *Wittenberg Quarterly*, edited by the president, with Professor E. O. Weaver as business manager. The first number set forth the following four-fold aim of the publication: "First, to bring the claims and advantages of Wittenberg College more largely and frequently before the

people of this territory; secondly, to furnish such statistics and information on the subject of education as parents may need in directing the education of their children; thirdly, to induce a larger number of young people, if possible, to secure a college education; fourthly, to awaken a deeper and more general interest, on the part of all classes, in the cause of Christian and higher education." The publication started out well. The first number contained sixteen pages of information about Wittenberg, cuts of college buildings, and articles dealing with education in general. Contributors included Doctor Heckert, who presented some reasons for desiring a college education; Professor Murphy, who described the merits and advantages of Wittenberg's Academy in an article entitled, "Where to Prepare for College"; and Doctor Hochdoerfer, who extolled the virtues of the study of modern languages. This quarterly did not continue in print very long, and some numbers were of doubtful literary value, but it was the beginning of a program of publicity based on printing which has been developed to the high rank of the present publications emanating from Wittenberg for the benefit of the alumni and friends of the institution.

Another journal, *The Wittenberger*, published by the students, catches the spirit of one phase of campus life at that time in a report of the annual class rush, held in the fall of 1901.

"Thursday morning, September 12, is a memorable period in the history of the two lower classes of Wittenberg College. It was a morning of history making, and it has never been made more swiftly on any battlefield. There existed deep down in the heart of each class a bit of enmity, and deeply rooted and strong was the determination to win the victory at any cost. They went into the battle for blood, but upon the principle that all is fair in love and war. So when the clash came there was the wildest of excitement.

"For two days the annual rush had been expected. Cer-

tain hints and signs on Tuesday led the wary Sophomores to believe the dummy would be strung up before daylight in the morning. All night the campus was scouted, and when day broke in the east the Sophs, tired and sleepy, stole away to their couches for a few hours of rest. The smoldering fire in the camp of the opposition the evening before was but a plan to deceive the enemy.

"Wednesday developed no new evidence. But lest they should be caught unawares, the Sophs, late in the day, stationed scouts in the dormitory and throughout the campus. Students of the city who were in sympathy with the Sophs sent wild news over the phones about 6 p. m. to the boys in this end of town. At 7 o'clock not a member of the class could be found in the building. They were out of town in a body waiting for the morning.

"All the night there came down a drizzle of rain. About 6 o'clock the undaunted Freshmen marched over in a body to the flat between the library and recitation hall and fastened the Sophomore dummy high up in the big elm tree. There, when daylight came, it hung soaked and dripping with rain. Hungry and tired, the freshies knotted themselves together under the boughs of the big tree, anxiously awaiting the attack.

"Morning came. The bell from Hotel DePit rang out clearly on the sharp, keen air. Breakfast! But breakfast never came. Only a few hard, stale biscuits and as many runty apples were presented to them about 8 o'clock by the Freshman girls. A little after 8 o'clock a party of Freshman girls captured Miss Bretney, a Sophomore. Immediately a detachment of Sophomore girls were sent to her rescue. Then there was a harmless rush between the girls of the two classes which lasted exactly two minutes.

"Meanwhile the Sophs had lined up in front of the Phi Psi house. At 8:10 began the march in double file. Up centre hill, down by the west end of the dormitory came the thirty sturdy Sophs. Within twenty yards the Freshmen made a demonstration and the rush was on. Ropes, girls, and knives played a very important part in the battle. Fierce and hard was the struggle for one long hour. At 9:45, Fred Moyer having escaped with the dummy, the Freshman class surrendered.

"The entire student body, the faculty, and some from the city witnessed the rush. Wallace, Collier, Scherer and Bowers were disabled and had to be carried to the dormitory, where they received medical treatment.

"And now all is quiet in the big red building on the hill, but still there is heard the far-away echo of

"Che-bim, che-boom, chee bim-bore,
Razzle-dazzle, sizzle zazzle, ra-re-roar,
Wittenberg, Wittenberg, 1904."¹

Basketball appeared on the Wittenberg campus in 1902 when a team consisting of Deaton, Hopkins, Moyer (Captain), Trout, and Ultes made a good beginning by emerging victorious in all contests. From that time onward the sport has been a popular one on the campus.

Mention of a prominent Wittenberg alumnus of this era was made on several occasions in the student journals of the time. General James M. Bell, of the regular army, saw service in the Civil War, the Indian campaigns of the West, and the Spanish-American War. He was wounded severely while leading his troops in Cuba. Decorations were bestowed upon him for bravery and heroism in action. His advancement to Brigadier General was among the first acts of President Roosevelt after "the Rough Rider" took office. In 1902, General Bell retired from army life and took up residence in Chicago. Another prominent alumnus of this time was Judge Peter S. Grosscup, of the United States Court of Appeals in Chicago. He rose to national prominence in this position because of several important decisions, including one dealing with government taxation of corporation stock. For a time he was frequently mentioned as a possibility for nomination to the presidency of the United States. In still a third field of en-

1. See *The Wittenberger*, September 25, 1901, p. 2. Class fights were in vogue in the early 1920's but from then on the form of the contest engaged in by these two classes varied from time to time. In later years, a tug of war was held, the losers being dragged through a nearby stream by the superior strength of the winners. Still later, a cane rush became the fad, wherein the Sophomores attempted, by power, trickery or other means, to carry a cane from one end of the football field to the other, against the opposition of the Freshmen.



PROF. ALVIN F. LINN



PROF. EDWIN O. WEAVER



PROF. J. PHILIP SCHNEIDER



PROF. JENS A. NESS

deavor Wittenberg graduates were winning great distinction. By the turn of the century the New York publishing firm of Funk and Wagnalls had become one of the strongest and best-known in the nation. Both of these men had received their education at Wittenberg. In these years, too, Professor George P. Krapp of Columbia University was beginning to establish himself as a scholar in his profession. He was graduated from Wittenberg in 1894. In 1901 he published the first of his books and later became a recognized leader among university professors of English and literature. Arthur Rugh was a member of the class of 1901. In later years, as secretary of the Y.M.C.A. in China, he achieved prominence. During the early years of the twentieth century the college took pride in the fact that Samuel McCord Crothers, of the class of 1873, was achieving fame as an essayist, and that George Ewing Martin who had graduated in 1877 was now chief justice of the Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia.

Leafing through *The Wittenberger*, weekly student newspaper of that era, one finds repeated references to the absence of President Ruthrauff from the campus, and statements telling that he was visiting a synod or congregations in the interest of the college. He spent a major share of his time in this way, creating good-will for Wittenberg, presenting its needs, and talking with prospective students. Early in March, 1902, while journeying over the state in the interests of the college, Doctor Ruthrauff became ill and was confined to bed in the city of Canton, Ohio. He recovered from this and appeared to be in fairly good health, resuming his duties, although he continued to require the services of a physician. On May 6, 1902, the faculty and students were shocked by the sudden news that their president had died of a kidney ailment. The student newspaper described the last day of his life, and the circumstances of his death in the following paragraphs: "The week of intense strain occasioned by the exten-

sive services in connection with the dedication of Divinity Hall had left the Doctor in a dazed state and very feeble. At times he was nearly blinded by his condition and would meet callers at the door with his hand on his forehead. Yet Saturday after the close of the dedicatory services on Friday evening, he was about in the city working assiduously in behalf of the institution.

"Tuesday morning with stooped shoulders and bowed head Doctor Ruthrauff entered Recitation Hall and made his way to chapel. He was sitting in his chair in a thoughtful attitude as the students filed in and took their places. As the tired man arose to begin the service, the room became very quiet. The service was the most brief one of the year. The first hymn, 'Holy! Holy! Holy!' was followed by a few verses from the Bible. Then the last hymn was announced. 'My Faith Looks up to Thee.' The last stanza ran:

'When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
 Shall o'er me roll;
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
Oh, bear me safe above,
 A ransomed soul.'

"What apt words! Yet our beloved President little thought as the last sounds died away that he had heard the last petition to God he would hear with us on earth. Unlike the usual custom, the Doctor did not offer a prayer, but asked that we would all repeat together the Lord's Prayer. The doxology was sung and the student body left the chapel in silence.

"Dr. Ruthrauff made his way to his house, and in a few minutes went to Hon. John L. Zimmerman's law office in the city. For some time he was in consultation with Mr. Zimmerman concerning the college, when he arose to go, and placing

his hand on the back of his head, he exclaimed: 'Mr. Zimmerman, I have the worst pain here I ever had in my life.' As Mr. Zimmerman arose Dr. Ruthrauff fell in his arms. He was quickly placed upon a couch, and medical aid was summoned at once. The physicians found him in a most critical state; his heart was very feeble and his respiration had entirely ceased. (*sic*) By noon the doctors began to despair and Mr. Zimmerman sent for Mrs. Ruthrauff and family. They arrived about one o'clock. News flew to the college that the President was dying. The faculty and a few friends sat in an adjoining room and eagerly awaited news from the door into the room of the sick. Groups of anxious students crowded the stairway to the office. At two o'clock the Doctor had undergone three violent convulsions, but was resting a little easier. The physicians gave little hope, yet it was believed that if he remained in the present quiet state that he would recover. But such was not God's will. At 3:48 the last attack came, and at ten minutes of four the worst had come. Our President was no more! One of God's good men had passed beyond."¹

Funeral services were held at the Fourth Lutheran Church of which he was a member, and burial was in Ferncliff Cemetery. Resolutions of respect were passed by the Board of Directors, by the Faculty, and by student organizations. The feeling was widespread that he had been taken at a time when the preliminary work of becoming acquainted with the churches on the territory and with the situation at Wittenberg had been completed, and when the real opportunity to accomplish certain aims was just dawning. Such men as Doctors Breckenridge, Heckert and Ort expressed their belief that had he been spared for another decade his contribution to Wittenberg would have been noteworthy. C. G. Heckert summarized the visible attainments of the eighteen months thus: "He secured a neat sum toward the endowment fund raised by the

1. *The Wittenberger*, May 14, 1902, pp. 325, 326.

Synod of Northern Indiana. He secured a fine start for the \$25,000 fund promised years ago by the Synod of East Ohio. He did successful work in our city canvassing for funds to put in our steam heating plant at a cost of \$6,000. He was energetic in pushing for the erection of the new Hamma Divinity Hall and in securing funds for the refurnishing. In everything that touched our complex institutional life, he was both intelligently interested and active.”¹

1. *Ibid.*, pp. 330, 331.

Chapter XV

C. G. Heckert Brings Men and Money to Wittenberg

The term, dean, was not used as an official title at Wittenberg until 1902. Upon the unexpected death of Ruthrauff, the Board of Directors were faced with the need of immediately furnishing the institution with a leader to direct and coordinate its activities; yet they desired time to deliberate upon the qualities of the man who should be chosen to serve as Wittenberg's sixth president. A solution was found in the temporary appointment of Doctor Ort as dean of the college. Having served as president for nearly nineteen years, there was no doubt in the mind of anyone as to his ability to manage the affairs of the school for another short period of time. Meanwhile, a search was begun for a man to be named as president, and it was not until ten months after their appointment that the committee reported to the Board the name of Charles Girven Heckert as their choice for the presidency.

Doctor Heckert was a Wittenberg alumnus of the class of 1886. He had graduated from the seminary three years later but, having taught in the Academy a few hours each week during his senior year in seminary, he preferred teaching to pastoral work. Upon the completion of his seminary training he accepted the position of instructor in the Wittenberg Academy and two years later was advanced to the rank of

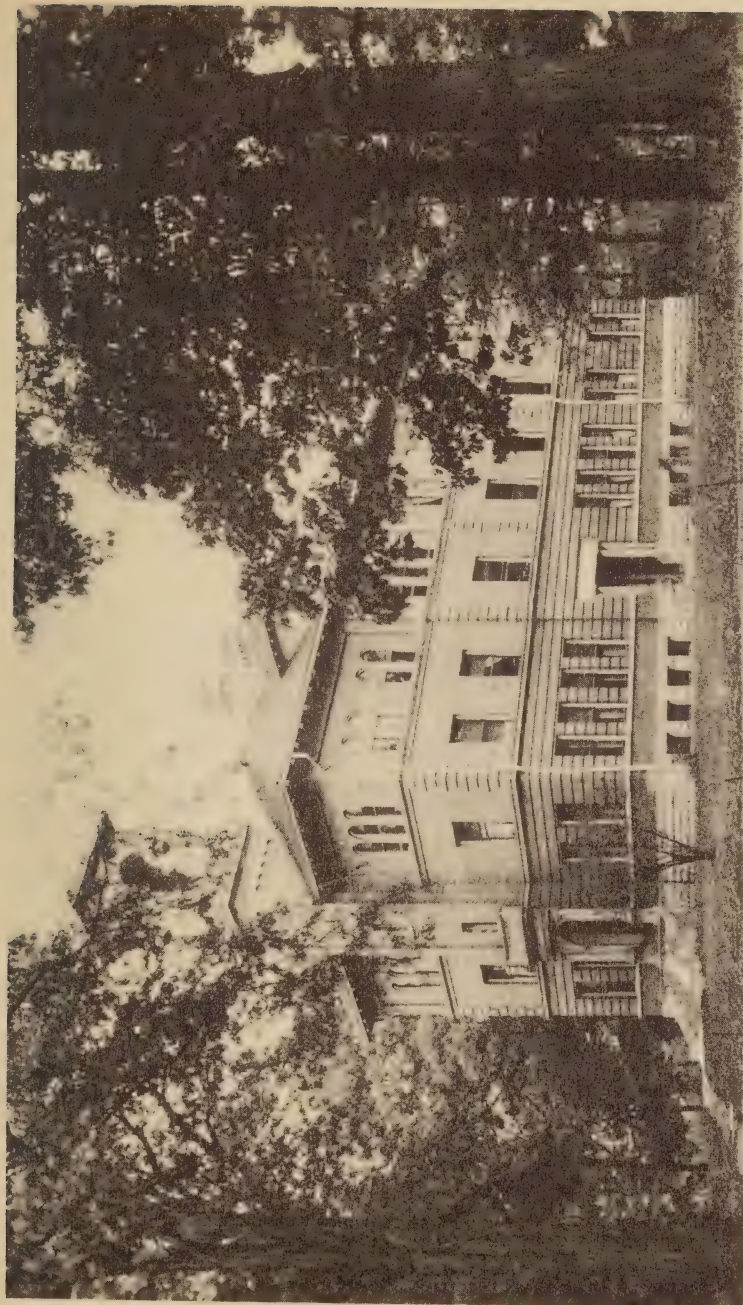
principal. In 1893 he joined the college faculty as professor of English and of logic. He was serving in this capacity when in 1903 he was chosen to head the institution. In 1899 Carthage College had granted him the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. Heckert was known as a man of good business sense, who took an active interest in church and civic affairs. He made friends easily and his selection as president was well received.

At his inauguration, which was made a part of the commencement exercises on May 28, 1903, S. E. Greenawalt, then pastor of the Lutheran Church in Bellefontaine, and serving as vice-president of the Board of Directors, administered the oath of office. The charge to the new president was delivered by Francis M. Porch, D.D., representative of the Synod of Northern Indiana on the Board of Directors.¹

This was followed by the inaugural address of Doctor Heckert on the subject: "The Rationale of the Denominational College." The speaker expressed his deep confidence and faith in the denominational college and in the contributions which it is to make to society. He stressed the changes which had taken place in education and the revolutionary processes which would continue to alter educational programs and practices. He revealed himself as one who, when the winds of change are blowing, is eager to unfurl the sails in order to move with the breeze and advance to distant shores.

Professor Prince has recalled a feature of the next commencement which will interest Wittenberg students. He writes: "At the first commencement of President Heckert's administration (1904) the academic procession was revived at Wittenberg. Such a procession had been customary in the earlier days. The faculty, graduating class and student body used to meet at the First Lutheran Church, from which point

1. See Journal of Board Minutes for years 1903-1911, p. 46.



KELLER HALL

they were led by a band from High Street to Main then to Market, now Fountain, and then to the Old Market House where the commencement exercises took place. But in 1868 or 1869 this procession was abandoned. For forty-five years there had now been no variation in the character of the commencement exercises save as to the place of holding them. They were first transferred from the old City Hall to Black's Opera House and about 1878 from the latter place to the college grounds. The class of 1896 had thought it would add to its dignity and local fame if it should inaugurate the custom of appearing in cap and gown at commencement time. The innovation proved so agreeable and appropriate that there has been no departure from it since that day."¹

With the president's chair once again filled, Doctor Ort relinquished his duties as dean of the college and was given the title of vice-president. This was the second title which, he could say, he was the first person to possess. Since the time when the office of vice-president was first created, it had not been filled until it was now given to Ort.

Another change in the faculty occurred in the fall of 1903 with the coming of V. G. A. Tressler who had accepted the Greek professorship offered to him at the same time that Heckert was called to the presidency. Wittenberg was fortunate in securing this scholar. He had graduated *summa cum laude* from Pennsylvania College in 1886, received his Master's degree from the same institution two years later, and was graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1891. He had studied law for two years before choosing the ministry as his profession. For eight years he served as pastor of Grace Church, San Jose, Cali-

1. When it is possible to hold commencement activities out of doors, the march from Myers Hall down to the amphitheater is a thrilling one for the graduating class. The entrance, to music, into the grass-carpeted arena in which the service is held, the slopes covered with spectators dressed in summer whites and colors, the green boughs arching overhead, the sunshine playing on the flowers and landscaping, make the surroundings such as to linger forever in the minds of those who have participated in the ceremony.

fornia, during which time he both studied and lectured at several nearby schools. From 1899 to 1902 he studied abroad at the universities of Leipzig, Berlin, and Paris, earning his Doctor of Philosophy degree at Leipzig University *magna cum laude*. Returning to America he became dean and professor of philosophy at Ansgar College for one year before accepting the Greek professorship at Wittenberg. In 1905 he was elected a member of the seminary faculty where he remained for many years as a valuable and esteemed member.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors in June, 1904, Doctor Heckert presented his first report after a full school year. It gives much information concerning the enrollment, the progress and the needs of Wittenberg at that time.

The attendance during the present year is as follows: Theological students, 25; Seniors, 37; Juniors, 20; Sophomores, 34; Freshmen, 77; Unclassified, 42; Academy, 121; Music, 42; (names repeated, 73) total, 325.¹ This shows an apparent gain of twenty-eight over last year. However, when it is remembered that there were catalogued last year thirty-five summer students and four graduate students, it will be seen that the real increase is sixty-seven, a very encouraging increase.

The work done in the classes this year has been of a high order, and we believe that Wittenberg has at last reached the point where scholarship may be expected of every graduate. Thoroughness has been the standard in all the classrooms during this year.

The deportment of our students has been quite satisfactory. The attendance upon the daily worship has been gratifying. The religious associations have been active in holding regular and special meetings, and in doing personal work. The study of English Bible has been an important feature of their work.

The work of the literary societies has shown a great decline for several years and we are not able to report any increased interest at this time. An effort will be made next year to awaken new zeal in this most important branch of our work.

1. In the college of liberal arts, 210.

We have been greatly gratified on account of the generous bequest of the late Rev. Charles Stroud, and believe that this will stimulate other friends of the college to make it possible that there shall be constant expansion of our institution.

Your President has completed a canvas of the business men of this city in the interest of the Science Department. As a result it will be possible for the Board at this time to create a new chair in that department.

Some improvements have been made during the year. Electric lights were placed in Hamma Divinity Hall, Ferncliff Hall and the Boys' Dormitory. The expense for the latter was borne by our church at Canton, Ohio. The loyalty of the Sophomore class was shown in the gift of a splendidly furnished President's office.¹ Zimmerman Library received needed repairs through the courtesy of Hon. John L. Zimmerman. Mrs. Geo. D. Harter gave \$200.00 for new books in the Library.

Our greatest needs are a new Science Hall properly equipped; the modernizing of the Dormitory; the filling of the Chair of English; and the creation of a chair for the study of the English Bible.

It will be noted that, according to this report, interest was waning in the Literary societies. Already they had lost some of the fascination they once held for the students and their influence had weakened. Much of the great zeal which an earlier student generation had shown in the weekly meetings was now missing. The attempt to revive them proved partially successful and for another decade or two they again received a measure of loyalty from the members, but eventually they began again to recede until, with the provision of a department of public speaking during the regime of the next president, they ceased to function.

The Stroud bequest, to which the president referred, was a gift of the Reverend Charles Stroud who owned a considerable amount of property in Clark County, all of which he left

1. By a strange coincidence the one who made this presentation on behalf of the Sophomore class was Rees Edgar Tulloss, who was later to succeed Doctor Heckert as President.

to Wittenberg. For most of his lifetime he had cherished the dream of presenting a substantial gift to the institution where he had received his theological education. The sum which Wittenberg received amounted to about \$70,000 which was the largest single gift received up to that time. With this money the chair of New Testament philology was established in the seminary, and the sum of five thousand dollars was set aside for the purchase of theological books, to be known as the Mrs. Clara Stroud Library Fund.

In filling the chair of English which had been made vacant by Doctor Heckert's advancement to the presidency, the Board selected a man who was to remain with the college for more than four decades and to become a professor beloved of many students across the years. That man was J. Philip Schneider. A graduate of Wittenberg in the class of 1896, he earned his Master's degree two years later at Columbia University. In 1904 he received the Doctor of Philosophy degree at Johns Hopkins where his scholarship earned a Phi Beta Kappa Key and won him appointment as university scholar and fellow. In addition to his work in the classroom, where his ability as a lecturer was distinctive and where his courses in Shakespeare and in Dante were especially appreciated, his interest in athletics and other student affairs made him one of the popular members of the teaching faculty in successive student generations.

To the newly established chair in science, known as the Springfield Professorship of geology and biology,¹ Charles G.

1. Another of the many means employed to raise money was adopted in the establishment of this chair. The writer has examined a small, leather-bound note book with the following statements written on the first page:

"We, whose names follow in this book, agree to pay to Wittenberg College each year between Jan. 1 and April 1 the value of the number of shares set opposite our names.

"1. Shares are \$5.00 each.

"2. This money is to endow the Chair of Physics and Biology, and will be called the Springfield Chair of Physics and Biology.

"3. Any subscriber to this fund may terminate his connection with it by giving notice to the President of Wittenberg College of his desire to withdraw; such notice to be given at least 3 months before Jan. 1 of any year. Death of subscriber shall terminate this agreement." The notebook discloses that nearly 200 shares were sold.

Shatzer was now called. One year earlier he had been advanced from the Wittenberg Academy, where he had been teaching for three years, to the position of acting professor of geology and biology. Here was another personality who was to identify himself closely with the college during the next four decades and whose genial smile and friendly interest was to endear him in an unusual way to the hearts of Wittenberg students. As dean of the college more will be said of him on later pages.

Still a third man of strength was added to the faculty as a result of Doctor Heckert's proposals in his report to the Board in June of 1904. The selection of Jens Anderson Ness as professor of Latin was noteworthy. He had taught at a number of institutions including St. Olaf College, University of South Dakota, University of Minnesota, University of Chicago, and Johns Hopkins University. At Johns Hopkins he had earned the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. In 1904 he came to Wittenberg as acting professor of Latin, was advanced to full professor in 1905, and remained with the college until his death in 1943. He was a man of unquestioned ability and scholarship in his field.

Wittenberg students of the years 1905 to 1940 or later, usually think of half a dozen professors when they recall college days. These three are usually among those whom they think representative of the faculty while they were in college.

In the file of the Wittenberg News Bureau were found some interesting paragraphs by Karl G. Lind on "Great Athletes," describing two personalities of this period. Mr. Lind divulges this information about these two athletes: "His collar bone broken in the Nineteenth century, and his nose crushed in the Twentieth, the hardest and longest grid player for Wittenberg was the Reverend Dr. W. C. Laughbaum, now pastor at New Springfield, O.

"Way back at the turn of the century and when eligibility rules were not often mentioned, the husky Laughbaum had already played four years for Wittenberg at guard, at tackle, and sometimes in the backfield. The exact years of his participation were: 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900.

"Then he went into Hamma Divinity school (on the same campus) and he played three more years: 1901, 1902, 1903.

"He returned for one year of post-graduate study, and played in 1905.

"He starred on defense against U. of Michigan in 1897, when the Wolverines played the Lutherans for the last time.

"As though he were not playing enough football in those eight years, he played in a game against Ohio State U. that lasted 70 minutes! It was his last—in 1905—when he took a terrible battering at tackle. Fresh waves of players pounded out a State victory—finally—17-0, and Laughbaum went to the hospital for four weeks.

"His nose had been broken in the Twentieth century. His collar bone had been broken in the Nineteenth."

"For those alumni of Wittenberg college who do not forget the great athletes just because others yearly crowd the state, a fellow by the name of Bob Bescher seems the greatest in baseball history.

"For some of the old-timers he is still the best in football. When he played for Wittenberg in 1905, he weighed 190, stood a little more than 6 feet. He was a fleet runner. A lusty athlete, a great give-and-take fellow, rugged, full of fun, Bob Bescher carried the ball 1700 yards in 12 games, got 15 touchdowns, did all the punting.

"But it was baseball that he loved. His speed in that game

won him fame. Playing the outfield for the Cincinnati Reds, he was the champion base-stealer in the National League in 1909, 1910, 1911. It was then that Grantland Rice called Bescher the 'ghost of the Bases.'

"Bescher moved to the New York Giants, where in 1914 he played with the Giants as they took the world championship. He joined the St. Louis Cardinals, later went with the Cleveland Indians (1918), and then some years with American Association teams."

Returning now to the financial affairs of Wittenberg, money from the Stroud bequest had been a God-send in strengthening the institution where it was weakest. A few years later, on March 9, 1906, a note was sent to all members of the Board of Directors, which revealed that further gifts were coming to Wittenberg. The communication read as follows:

Dear Sir and Brother:

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of Wittenberg College will be held in the Recitation Hall of Wittenberg College on Thursday, March 22, 1906, at 10 o'clock, a. m., to consider the acceptance of the conditions relative to the gifts of Dr. M. W. Hamma and Andrew Carnegie, and for such other matters as may come before the Board.

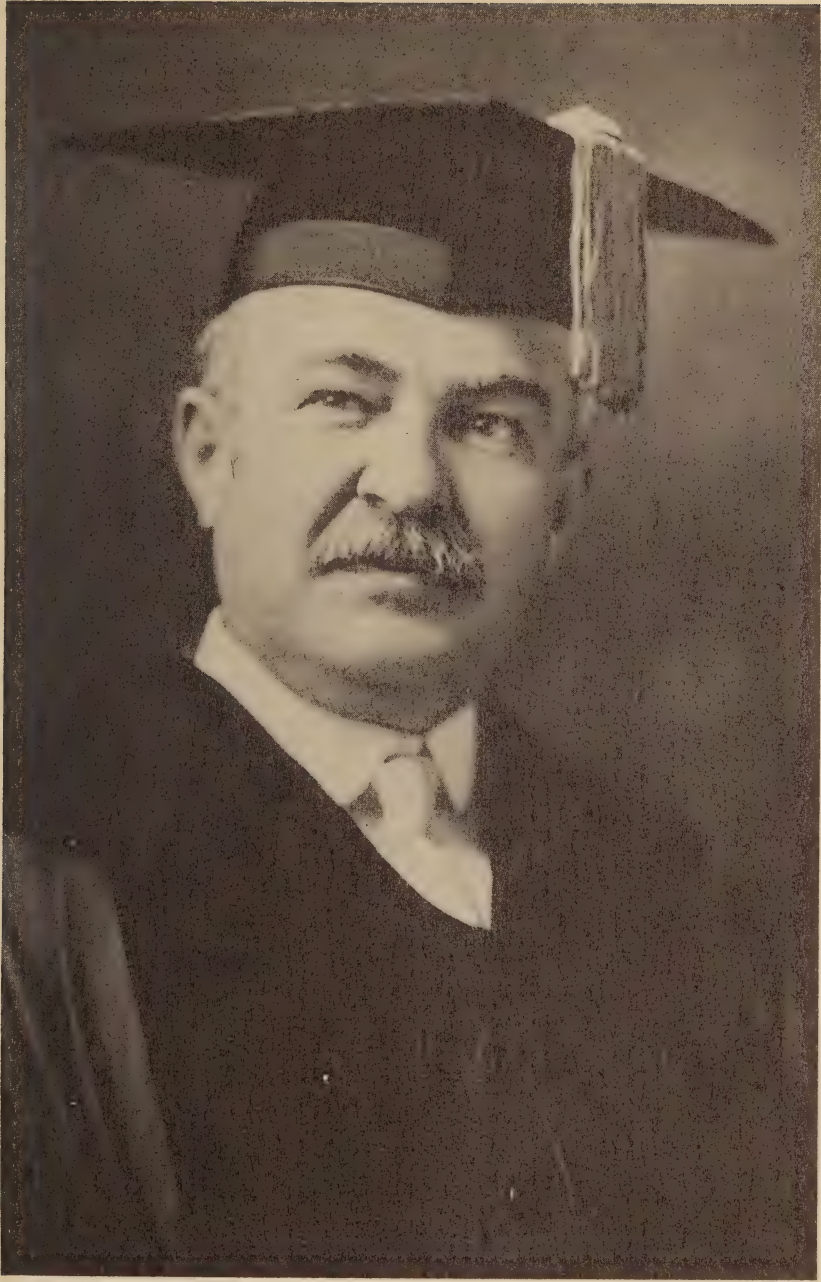
Respectfully,

S. E. Greenawalt, Pres. of Board.

Receipt of such news must have been both satisfying and exciting to the members of the Board, to whom the task of developing a strong institution without sufficient funds was a constant trial. Arriving in Springfield, they learned that Mr. Carnegie was willing to add Wittenberg to the long list of institutions benefitting from his generosity. He proposed to give thirty thousand dollars to erect a science hall on the campus if friends of the school would match his gift with an equal sum for endowment of the building. The proposition was

immediately accepted by the Board and a committee of six was appointed to decide upon plans and location of the building. The committee was composed of Heckert, Prince, Linn, Weaver, Shatzer and J. L. Zimmerman.

In addition, the Reverend M. W. Hamma had drawn up an agreement whereby, for certain considerations, he would give to Wittenberg his extensive land holdings in Johnson and Gage counties in the state of Nebraska. Included in the agreement were stipulations to the effect that from the sale of these lands, nine thousand nine hundred dollars was to be given to the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the General Synod, and all the rest was to be used for the financial support of the seminary. A limit of ten thousand dollars was placed upon the amount which could be spent from the principal for the erection of a seminary building, all the rest to be used as endowment and the interest alone expended. In return Doctor Hamma was to receive five thousand dollars per year from Wittenberg for the remainder of his life. The Board of Directors gladly approved the agreement. After the payment had been made to the missionary society, Wittenberg realized one hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars from this generous gift of Doctor Hamma. In the sixty-one years of the school's existence, this was the largest gift Wittenberg had received. It opened the way for a stronger, larger seminary and greatly heartened the friends of the institution as well as the church at large. As the news of the gift spread throughout the church, expressions of gratification and pleasure were numerous. The deep and sustained interest which Doctor Hamma had shown in the seminary, and now this magnificent gift, made the Directors concur readily with the suggestion that the seminary bear the name of Hamma Divinity School, and, since 1906, such has been the case. Whereas the seminary once had not a single professor devoting all of his time to teaching theological courses, there were now four men con-



PRESIDENT CHARLES G. HECKERT, D.D., LL.D. 1903-1920

stituting the seminary faculty. In addition to Ort, Bauslin and Breckenridge, Tressler was transferred from the college to the seminary in 1905. These men commanded respect both as teachers and as churchmen. They gave the seminary an honorable standing in the church at large. Upon the death of Breckenridge in November, 1907, the Board called L. H. Larimer to the chair of Old Testament language and literature. He was a graduate of the college and seminary and had served ten years in the pastorate at the Ohio communities of Shanesville, Tipp City and New Philadelphia. Eventually he was to become dean of the seminary.

During this period of Wittenberg's history the members of the faculty were required to make extended trips over the territory during their summer vacations. At the annual meetings of the Board a report was made, describing the itinerary followed by each professor. These trips were for the obvious purpose of soliciting students and funds, and of presenting the cause of Wittenberg to the churches, but they afforded the professors an opportunity to meet the parents of their students and to visit in the students' homes. These personal contacts were a fine thing in developing pleasant relations between student and faculty.

The project of raising the funds with which to meet the stipulations laid down by Mr. Carnegie for the erection of a science building at Wittenberg occupied a great deal of President Heckert's time for many months. But he was sustained in his efforts by a strong interest among faculty members and friends, and the helpful cooperation of many. Professor Weaver was attending summer school at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor when he learned of the Carnegie proposal. In a letter to Heckert he wrote:

"I barely had time enough to mail you the bit of enthusiasm which boiled over yesterday just before supper time.

McCord had just received the copy of the 'News' from someone in Springfield and brought it right over to the Physics Lab. to show me. I think he was almost as enthusiastic as I was over it, altho he's telling everybody today how I opened my eyes when they caught the headlines of the article. It is not too good to be true, but it is certainly 'great' . . . I will confess I've been feeling ever so much better ever since.

"You have a pretty large contract on hands to raise the other \$30,000, but I am sure you'll get it without much trouble. Springfield is solid for you. You have the heartiest confidence of Springfield business men and of those who have the power to give. I believe they will meet you half-way at least and give you generous support."¹

Heckert raised his sights almost at once in the hope of receiving more than the required \$30,000, believing that Mr. Carnegie would be willing to match a larger sum if it could be raised from among the friends of Wittenberg. Soon after the construction of the building was begun, it became evident that a larger sum would be necessary if the building was to be as complete as was desired. A total of ten thousand dollars was established as Springfield's share in the campaign, with more than twenty thousand dollars to be raised on the Wittenberg territory. Then began a lengthy correspondence between Heckert and Andrew Carnegie in Scotland. As one reads those letters and the replies, the persistency of Wittenberg's president is well illustrated. Time and again he continued to press for an additional gift from the great philanthropist. Repeated denials failed to deter him. "Mr. Carnegie is sorry he cannot pay any attention to your further request." "You should not try to erect a building for \$30,000 by cheapening a \$35,000 one, but build it smaller and in such a way that it can be added to when the time comes and when you have more money." At last Mr. Carnegie's donation was raised to \$35,000 conditional upon the raising of a like sum for endowment.

1. From a letter among the papers of Heckert in the historical files of the college.

When actual cost of construction exceeded original estimates, Heckert sought still further increases from the multi-millionaire. The correspondence makes most interesting reading.

In this same general period, an endeavor was made to secure for Wittenberg College the benefits of inclusion in the Carnegie Foundation's plan for the pensioning of college teachers. In an effort to meet the requirements of the Foundation as to absence of denominational emphasis, Dr. Heckert recommended to the Board in June, 1906, the adoption of the following statement:

"In the Collegiate and Academic departments of Wittenberg College, no denominational test is imposed in the choice of trustees, officers or teachers, or in the admission of students, nor are distinctly denominational tenets or doctrines taught to the students."¹

With the addition after the word "College", of the words: "the following is and has been the policy of Wittenberg College:", this recommendation was adopted by the Board. For a short time this action by the Board aroused considerable discussion and even heated argument,² but when the actual statement made by the Board was known and understood, the trouble gradually subsided. For a short time some people had thought the college was becoming undenominational, forsaking her faith for Carnegie's gold. The Directors of Wittenberg had felt from the beginning that while the school was supported primarily by Lutherans, its service was by no means to be restricted to that one denomination. Many denominations have always been represented in the student body of the college.

While work on the new Carnegie Science Hall was in progress, Wittenberg received a gift of approximately ten thousand dollars from another source. Mr. Henry H. Kagey of the little village of Mifflin, in Ashland County, Ohio,

1. See Board Minutes, Volume for years 1903-1911, pp. 134, 138.

2. See Springfield, Ohio, *Sun*, June 7, 1906, p. 1.

deeded his two farms to Wittenberg on the annuity plan, with the understanding the money should be applied to the endowment of a chair of elocution. In a few years he added one thousand dollars to this gift. Here was the beginning on a permanent financial basis, of what was later, as Wittenberg's department of public speaking, to bring much honor to the school. Mr. Kagey was a bachelor who wished to leave his possessions to a worthy cause. He believed that the establishment of a chair in public speaking would be helpful in training all students, but especially those who were expecting to enter the ministry. This gift was proof that the annuity plan, adopted by Wittenberg in 1905 and given greater emphasis in 1907, would bear fruit as the plan became more widely known.

From its inception, Wittenberg has been zealous for the class-room attainments of its students, and for the academic standing of the institution. On earlier pages this history has presented the views of the faculty in this regard. President Heckert's report to the Board on behalf of the faculty in 1907 included the following statements, descriptive of the school year just ending:

"A higher grade than ever before has been established in class room work, and no student is permitted to advance to higher class standing until his work has met the Faculty standard. The result of this has been the loss of a few students and the present disfavor of a few parents or guardians. Your Faculty, however, believe that great good is bound to accrue to the institution when it becomes thoroughly understood by our patrons that the College is not so greatly in need of students as to look with indifference upon careless or incompetent class-room work. On the other hand, special pains are taken by the professors to aid students who have fallen behind in their work to regain what has been lost."

In 1908, he reported the largest enrollment in the history of the school, with a total of 525 students in all departments



The Faculty of 1908, with Dr. Edgar F. Smith. Photo made at the time
of the dedication of Carnegie Science Hall, June 3, 1908.

FIRST ROW, seated, left to right: Dr. Samuel A. Ort, Dr. Edgar Fahs Smith, Dr. Charles G. Heckert, Miss Alice M. Mower, Dr. Benjamin F. Prince. SECOND ROW, standing: Dr. Victor G. A. Tressler, Dr. J. Philip Schneider, Miss Grace Prince, Miss Mary Priscilla Griffith, Dr. Edwin O. Weaver, Dr. Alvin Frank Linn. THIRD ROW: Dr. Karl F. R. Hochdoerfer, Miss Dilla Edith Ellwood, Dr. George O. Berg, Dr. Jens A. Ness. LAST ROW: Earl W. Castle, Charles G. Shatzer, Raymond W. McKinney, Frederic Pierre Colette.

and in summer school, a gain of 121 over the previous year.¹ Then he continued:

"The year now closing has been one of solid growth and real internal development. Each year shows an increase in the amount of work that can be accomplished as well as in the quality of that work. The aim of your faculty toward the higher ideals of scholarship is being realized to some extent. More is expected of the student than ever before, and our diploma is generally recognized as an evidence of an honest and successful intellectual effort."

A number of lines from that same report tell an interesting story of a year of growth in the life of Wittenberg: "The Christian work of the institution has been carried forward in a way that is commendable Considerable attention has been paid by members of the faculty and many of the earnest Christian students to the matter of interesting young men in the work of the ministry Pipe organ instruction has been undertaken successfully We wish to call the particular attention of the Board to the splendid growth of our Summer School. It can well be questioned whether any more complete school was conducted in this State last year.² We are more than pleased to announce the completion of the new Carnegie Science Hall. Arrangements have been made for the dedication of the building on Wednesday afternoon of this week. Doctor Edgar F. Smith, Vice Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, and formerly our Professor of Chemistry, will deliver the address. The building has cost, without furniture or equipment, something more than forty thousand dollars. This money came from the splendid benefactions of Mr. Andrew Carnegie As a result of a visit made by the President of the institution to the Honorable John W. Bookwalter, who was at that time staying in Nice, France, the sum of thirty thousand dollars has been added to the endowment

1. The undergraduate students in the college, including 74 "unclassified" students, totaled 212, which was an increase of 11 students over the preceding year.
2. The enrollment in the Summer School had jumped from 47 in 1907 to 149 in 1908.

funds of the College for the purpose of establishing a professorship.”¹

With the Bookwalter gift the chair of philosophy was established at Wittenberg and as the first incumbent Professor T. Bruce Birch was issued a call which he accepted. This action brought another great soul to the college, one who was to identify himself with the school in such a manner that his name would be recalled by students whenever they thought of their college. He was one who commanded respect in the academic world, bringing his talents to Wittenberg in early manhood and remaining with the college until he died. He received his education at Bloomsburg State Normal School, Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg Theological Seminary, and the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned the Doctor of Philosophy degree, and was Harrison Foundation Fellow. Before coming to Wittenberg he had taught at Irving College and Susquehanna University, and had served in the pastorate for three years.

Heckert's presidency is noteworthy in two respects: in his selection of faculty members, and in the funds he secured for Wittenberg. A majority of the men he called to Wittenberg proved to be towers of strength for the institution and remained with the school in disregard of calls received from better-known colleges and universities, serving out long terms until death or retirement forced a termination of their labors. In 1909 the seminary faculty was enlarged by the addition of a fifth professor. With the establishment of the chair of symbolics a call was issued to Professor Juergen Ludwig Neve, who at the time of his selection was a professor in the Western Theological Seminary. He had received his education at Breklum and the University of Kiel. He had been a professor for twenty-two years and an editor of *Lutherischer Zionsbote*.

1. See Board Minutes, Journal for years 1903-1911, pp. 217-219.

He brought to the seminary sound scholarship and a well-founded Lutheran faith. His contribution to the church at large included the authorship of a number of pre-eminently worthy volumes.

When Doctor Ort died in 1911, thus closing his long period of usefulness to Wittenberg, his place on the seminary faculty was taken by L. S. Keyser, D.D. Doctor Keyser was graduated from the Wittenberg seminary in 1883. He held Master's degrees from both Ohio Northern University and Wittenberg. Twenty-eight years had been spent in the active pastorate with the exception of two years when he was editor of a religious journal. He had served several years as president of the Wittenberg Board of Directors. A prolific writer, he became widely known for his authorship of books dealing with birds, and later of many volumes on theology.

Another of Heckert's appointments was that of the first dean of the seminary. In his report of the faculty to the Board in 1911 he declared:

It is the opinion of the President of the institution that the time has come for the creation of at least one deanship in our faculty arrangement. For all practical purposes we have two distinct institutions, both under the control of the same Board. It ought to be the duty of some one member of the Hama School faculty to have special authority from the Board in matters of government and discipline, and of general detail in the management of the school. His duties would be to preside at faculty meetings in the absence of the President and to perform such other functions as are customary in such an office. I take special pleasure in recommending to the Board that Professor D. H. Bauslin, D.D., now the oldest in point of service and for several years secretary of that faculty, be made Dean. In this recommendation the other members of the faculty heartily concur.¹

With the approval of the Board of Directors, Doctor Bauslin

1. Published report of faculty, 1911, p. 11.

became the first dean of Hamma Divinity School. Dean E. E. Flack, the present occupant of that position, is the fourth man to serve in that office since it was created. The others were V. G. A. Tressler, and Loyal H. Larimer.

Robert Henry Hiller was appointed to the chair of Greek in 1911, thus beginning a term of service which was to stretch across more than three decades. He was graduated from Wittenberg in 1889, then taught Latin and English in the Wittenberg Academy for two years before going to Hartwick Seminary to earn his Bachelor of Divinity degree. He returned to Wittenberg in 1894 as instructor in music and director of the school of music. This was followed by graduate study at Columbia University and short terms of teaching at various schools in the East, after which he returned to Wittenberg to spend the rest of his teaching career. For a time he directed the glee clubs at Wittenberg in addition to his class-room work. He is the composer of the Wittenberg Alma Mater song, and other musical scores dedicated to the college.

In 1916 the hope which President Heckert had voiced long before, that a chair of English Bible might be established in the college, came to fulfillment. An active Board member was called to this chair in the selection of Samuel E. Greenawalt, D.D., who had already been teaching Bible at Wittenberg during the previous year on a temporary appointment. This was an appropriate choice as Doctor Greenawalt and his wife had provided twenty thousand dollars for the Ross Mitchell Memorial Professorship of the Bible and Comparative Religion. A Wittenberg alumnus, he had been both a high school instructor and a minister.

Another of the appointments of President Heckert deserving mention is that of Miss Rose Cadwgan who, in the centennial year, ended her services at Wittenberg upon the completion of thirty-three years of teaching in the institution.



EARLY ALMA MATER



LATE ALMA MATER

She was principal of Thackeray High School before coming to Wittenberg to teach English, history and logic.

Two coaches have been outstanding at Wittenberg from the standpoint of tenure of service and success of their teams. The first of these was Ernest Godfrey, graduate of Ohio State, who came to Wittenberg in 1916. His teams went through three consecutive football seasons undefeated. He left Wittenberg after twelve years to return to Ohio State where he has remained since 1928. He was the first man to be hired as a Wittenberg coach and director of Athletics on a full-time basis. All former coaches were given one year contracts.

In addition to his faculty appointments, the administration of President Heckert is outstanding in the matter of financial strengthening of the school. This chapter has already enumerated some of his achievements along this line, but a few more important events remain to be told. For some time the need of larger accommodations for young women had been felt keenly. The original hall erected to house the girls attending Wittenberg had never been adequate to serve all who desired to live there. In 1911 Mrs. Lovina Openlander of Auburn, Indiana, later of Springfield, gave the college twelve thousand dollars upon an annuity basis, with the understanding that the money was to be used to enlarge the girls' dormitory. Eventually she raised her gift to fourteen thousand five hundred dollars. In the fall of 1914 the enlarged dormitory was ready for occupancy. Doctor Heckert had secured gifts from other interested parties, making it possible to improve the old section of the building as well as to furnish both the old and the new wings. The cost of all such improvements exceeded twenty thousand dollars.

The largest gift which the college received during the school year, 1911-1912, was a bequest of ten thousand dollars from the estate of the Reverend Isaac K. Funk, a graduate of

the class of 1860. After serving for a number of years as pastor of Lutheran churches, he joined another Wittenberg alumnus, the Reverend Adam Wagnalls, of the class of 1866, in forming the publishing firm of The Funk and Wagnalls Company, which came to be so well known in its field. Doctor Funk always retained an interest in his college and remembered it in the final disposition of his possessions.

In 1914 the president could report that Wittenberg had benefitted from the will of the late Alexander Moore, who lived near Bellefontaine, Ohio, to the extent of about fifty-five thousand dollars. It was specified that this money should be used to help educate worthy students who could not see their way clear to enter college, or continue their education, because of financial duress. This fund was to be loaned at three per cent per annum, and the principal sum was to be returned within ten years. Unfortunately, under Mr. Moore's will, the fund was not turned over to the college but was placed in the hands of a local trustee, who was to pay over the net income to the institution. The principal sum, as finally set up, amounted to approximately \$40,000.00. Losses resulting from unfortunate investments of the trustee reduced this in later years to \$22,000.00. The fund has proved a blessing to many students, who, through loans thus made possible, have been enabled to continue their education.

At the meeting of the Board in June, 1914, Mr. F. E. Myers of Ashland, Ohio, proposed that the college should seek to raise fifty thousand dollars for general campus improvements and for payment of minor debts. The suggestion was given to a committee of ten, including Mr. Myers, who were to report at a later session of the Board. They came forth with plans for an effort to increase greatly the endowment of the college. Their recommendations were stated thus:

1. That the president of this institution be directed to devote his time to visiting the congregations and individuals connected with the Lutheran Church, and other persons, for a period of two years, in an effort to raise the sum of two hundred thousand dollars for endowment, and fifty thousand dollars for improvements.

2. That Doctor Heckert be relieved during that period from any teaching in the institution, and from any discipline therein, but not from the responsibility of general management, and that the same be given to a dean to be appointed by the president.

3. That the dean to be selected be given an additional salary of one hundred dollars per year.

4. That the salary of Doctor Heckert during this period be at the rate of three thousand dollars per annum with necessary expenses.

5. That this agreement is to go into effect on October 1, 1914.¹

The Board having approved of this plan, Charles G. Shatzer was appointed dean to administer the academic affairs of the institution, while Heckert went forth to seek funds for Wittenberg. Since 1914 Doctor Shatzer has continued as dean of the college, winning the respect of all Wittenbergers by his efficient manner of conducting college affairs and by his genial personality.

During those two years of visitation, President Heckert travelled about ten thousand miles and by tapping every available source, large or small, secured a total of approximately one hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars in gifts and pledges. In addition he conferred with the Myers Brothers, Francis E. and Philip A. of Ashland, Ohio, concerning a gift with which to remodel the men's dormitory. They agreed to this proposal, of which more will be said later. While Heckert was willing to give himself for two years to this cause, one has

1. See Board minutes, journal for 1911 to 1916, pp. 147, 148.

to question the wisdom of making the president of a college a full time financial agent. From the beginning, the presidents of Wittenberg have had to give more time, energy and thought to this phase of activity than was good for the life of the institution. In recent years, loyal friends of Wittenberg have been giving increasing expression to the hope that the office of president may be less and less construed by the Board as one entailing duties of a financial nature, in order that the president may devote himself more fully to the academic, religious and social phases of campus life.

In the fall of 1915 the seminary took another long step forward. By that time the portion of the funds received from Doctor Hamma for building purposes had been utilized for the erection of what is now known as Hamma Hall. With its beautiful chapel especially for the use of theological students, containing six class rooms and several halls which could be used as a library or museum, the new building provided adequate facilities for the seminary curriculum. At the same time an addition was made to the seminary dormitory, thus furnishing an opportunity for more men to live there. As the classes no longer met in that building, it was possible to transform the former class rooms into dormitory accommodations. With the seminary itself, as well as the new building, bearing the name of Hamma, it was now agreed that the dormitory, formerly known as Hamma Hall, should be renamed Keller Hall in honor of the first president of Wittenberg. Dedication of the new seminary building was made the occasion for a gathering of prominent men from various Lutheran bodies in America to present addresses on subjects of general interest.¹ It was a gathering which attracted the attention of the entire church and gave further impetus to the growing movement for Lutheran church unity.

1. *The Lutheran Quarterly*, January 1916, was given over to the publication of addresses presented on this occasion.



CARNEGIE HALL

In order to recognize the generosity of the Myers brothers who furnished the money with which to remodel the men's dormitory, that building was renamed Myers Hall. A total of twenty thousand dollars presented by these philanthropists made it possible not only to paint the building inside and out, lay new floors, and make extensive repairs, but it furnished the means for erecting the impressive pillars on the portico on the front of the building. When the dormitory was first planned in the early days of the college, it was anticipated that the front would bear the appearance which it has today. Early catalogues carried pictures of the building as it was supposed to look when completed. Finally, after nearly three quarters of a century, Myers Hall blossomed forth with the stately and dignified appearance which the founders of Wittenberg had meant that it should have. In the center of the campus, towering high above all other buildings, it makes a splendid impression upon the visitor to Wittenberg as he enters the campus through the main entrance. Services of rededication were held on November 9, 1916, attended by Mr. F. E. Myers who expressed his deep satisfaction at the results which had been achieved.

Additions of land to the campus have been made many times. The last important acquisition of college property during the Heckert administration was the purchase of some ground running eastward from the campus to Woodlawn Avenue. It was a strip of land two hundred and fifty feet long, with fifty feet fronting on Woodlawn Avenue. Purchased for five thousand five hundred dollars, it made possible an East entrance to the campus which has proven to be a great convenience. As Wittenberg approached its seventy-fifth birthday the changes made to the exterior of Myers Hall, the addition of new buildings, and the new campus entrance gave the college grounds their best appearance since the founding of the school.

Chapter XVI

Wittenberg in World War I

President Heckert was drained of much energy by the tiring travels on behalf of the financial appeal to which he had given himself for two years. He looked forward to the resumption of his normal duties at the close of the campaign, hoping to lead a less demanding routine for the remainder of his years. But war clouds were gathering over America as the conflict in Europe rose in fury. A period of difficulty for all colleges was predicted and Heckert realized that many hardships lay immediately ahead.

Events in Europe began to disturb the calm of the students previous to our entry into the war. Our government had passed the National Defense Act, or the Hay Act, in 1916, increasing the size of the regular army. This action naturally carried an appeal to young men to get into uniform. A few officers' training camps had also been established and some college students saw the opportunity to earn a commission by leaving school. In May of 1917, the Selective Service Act was passed by Congress and the size of our military forces began to increase at an accelerated pace. Army camps sprang up all over the nation. Dean Shatzer, reporting in June of 1917, discussed the matter of student withdrawals. He said:

The present war situation has been the cause of the withdrawal of a number of students. The greater number of the withdrawals have been among the Seniors. They have gone to the Officers' Training Camps and the college course work has not been interfered with. Considerable time has been given to conferences with the individual student in order that he might be given an opportunity to talk out his enthusiasm for the training camps and enlistment and thus reach his own conclusions as to what would be best for him and country at this time. It has been our opinion that the young men should be retained in the colleges until the close of the year or at least until the first flush of war enthusiasm had given place to more deliberate judgment.¹

At the same time President Heckert described the situation at Wittenberg:

Your faculty has been anxious to do what was right in view of the present national military situation. Acting under advice from Washington, we have suggested to our young men that there is no need for them to rush at once into enlistment. Whenever our young men have heard the call of patriotism and have desired to seek enrollment in the Officers' Reserve Corps, or any other department for service, we have cheerfully granted them letters of approval to the military department and have agreed to carry forward their grade credits to the end of the year. Because of this action, quite a number of the Senior class will be recommended for the degree of A.B. and given their diplomas *in absentia*. In addition to this, all students agreeing to do farm work for the summer have been granted the same privilege. A large number of the young men have been doing some preliminary training on the campus during the past six weeks. Thanks are due Charles B. Zimmerman, Esq., Coach Godfrey, Captain Estel Stewart of Company B, Third Regiment, Ohio National Guard, and Mr. Charles Meyer, a former student, for services and favors rendered.²

The offices of the president and dean in those days must have been scenes of sober talks and much counseling. The genuine

1. Published Report of the Faculty, 1917, p. 8.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 4.

personal interest which these educators took in the students increased their influence as the advisers and confidants of the young men in that hour of decision, when they faced the perplexing question of volunteering for duty with the armed forces.

The following fall the student newspaper, *The Torch*, carried headlines week by week which tell their own tale of the effects of the war on the college.

"War causes drop in enrollment."

"Drafted men go tomorrow."

"Torch will be sent free to soldiers."

"Soldiers appear in chapel, raise \$50.00 for camp athletic fund."

"Y. M. Fund for soldiers will start here soon."

"War Fund pledge oversubscribed in less than 24 hours."

"Men in service of Uncle Sam honored by fitting chapel exercises."

"24 men make application for Navy wireless enlistment."

"Wittenberg men receive appointment to third officers' training camps."

"War savings societies are being formed by students at the college."

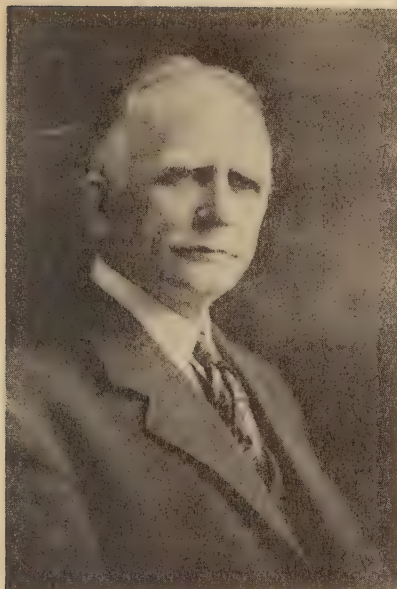
"Doctor Heckert gives three talks at Camp Sherman."

"230 Wittenbergers in Service."

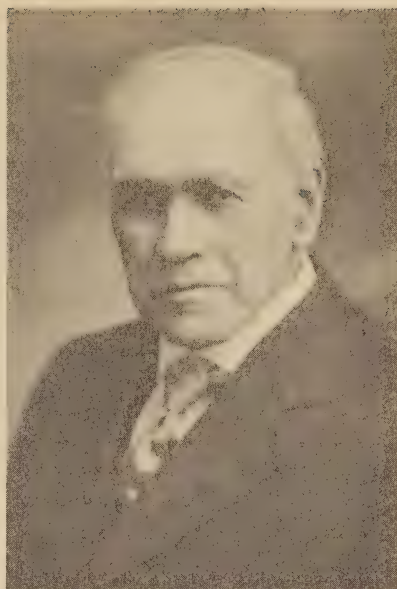
"Former Student dies in service of his country."

"Wittenberger is youngest Lieutenant-colonel in U. S. Army."

Letters from the boys in the service were printed in the *Torch*. Girls of the college baked cookies and other tasty things to send to Wittenbergers located at Camp Sherman.



THE HON. JOHN L.
ZIMMERMAN



PROF. B. F. PRINCE



DR. PRINCE AND
DR. A. W. WAGNALLS



TEDDY ROOSEVELT AND
ALUMNUS H. S. KISSELL

Among the Wittenbergers who saw service in the First World War were nine men who returned to the campus in order to enroll in the seminary. The entire class of 1923 in Hama Divinity School consisted of these war veterans. The class received nation-wide publicity under the name of "The Fighting Nine." Names of the nine men are: Walter E. Bradley, Edward R. Capewell, Ralph D. Heim, Russell N. McMichael, Frank F. Secrist, Lawrence E. Snyder, George F. Weissling, Christian C. Wessel, and L. Herbert Wyandt.

Under the direction of the athletic department, and in connection with the local unit of the Ohio State Guard, drill was held weekly on the campus to give the students an opportunity to receive pre-induction training. As this was at best only a makeshift, the college authorities welcomed the adoption by the government of a regular army training course to be installed at six hundred colleges in the nation. Wittenberg made application and was chosen as one of the colleges to have a unit of the Students' Army Training Corps, usually designed by the initials S.A.T.C. Wittenberg's unit was made part of the sixth district, along with other schools in Ohio, Indiana and West Virginia, under the command of R. M. Hughes of Ohio State University. Lieutenant A. J. Somes, soon thereafter advanced to the rank of Captain, was placed in charge of the work at Wittenberg, and Myers Hall was turned into an army barracks. All school or student furniture was removed, to be replaced with army cots and other equipment. About two hundred and fifty men formed the military unit, which was established in September, 1918.

Naturally these movements brought marked changes to student life. Fraternity houses were depleted as the men enlisted and were required to move into Myers Hall. Strict discipline was maintained at all times. The men gave the majority of their waking hours to drill and other military duties,

with class recitations and study forming the remainder of their daily activity.

On Saturday, November 23, 1918, the first edition of *The Wittenberg Reveille* appeared. It was intended to record the activities of the military post. The first issue carried the news that with the arrival of Lieutenant C. E. Heil, an expert in small arms, the post now had four commissioned officers. Special order number 17, issued by Captain Some, was printed, giving the following information:

“On and after this date the following calls will be sounded at the hours specified:

First call	5:45 a. m.
Reveille	6:00 a. m.
Mess	6:30 a. m.
First Call—Retreat	4:25 p. m.
Retreat	4:30 p. m.
First Call Guard Mount	4:50 p. m.
Guard Mount	6:00 p. m.

Other items mentioned included an article on the influenza epidemic which put one hundred and two of the soldiers in the hospital, a description of the S.A.T.C. band, an account of a sixteen-mile hike, on which the men carried their rifles and two blankets, and a story about the post exchange.

With the signing of the Armistice in November, 1918, the men in the S.A.T.C. quickly tired of military life and anticipated their early release. A few weeks went by and the news came that such units would not be demobilized until another six months had passed. Student soldiers on all campuses were getting quite restless when the order came through to disband the S.A.T.C. during the month of December. This work came to an end at Wittenberg on December 20, 1918, in time to permit the trainees to go to their homes for the Christmas season.

In June, 1919, President Heckert made some interesting statements concerning the past school year:

In many respects the effort (of the S.A.T.C.) was successful, and the college authorities will always have the satisfaction of knowing that this institution gave itself unreservedly to our great government in its time of need.

This work came to an end December 20, 1918. Since then the attention of the faculty has been strongly given to the matter of getting away from things military and back again to things educational and religious. The government inspectors who visited our unit gave us high rating for strict attention to orders issued by the government and to a high degree of efficiency acquired in all the matters pertaining to military discipline. Credit for this work is due to the high grade of men in the service and the thorough drilling done by the Command.

During the second week of October we were attacked violently by the prevailing epidemic (Spanish Influenza) and were compelled to close activities in all departments except the military for three weeks. More than 150 of our students suffered. We are very happy to report that not a single death occurred among our number, although one of the city volunteer nurses, Mrs. William C. Hewitt, a member of the First Lutheran Church, paid the supreme penalty. She had worked very faithfully among the students, carrying the sunshine of her life to their bedsides, when suddenly she succumbed and passed to her reward.

I cannot pay too high tribute to the Red Cross, the Springfield War Camp Community Service, the wives of our faculty members, and a number of influential ladies of the North side for their superb and tireless service during that epidemic. Dr. L. L. Syman, who had charge of the medical department of the S.A.T.C., also did notable service and deserves the thanks of every friend of Wittenberg College. Probably no other unit of our size went through this dreadful period without a single loss by death. We do not forget our deep gratitude to Almighty God for His protection.

I desire also to acknowledge with thanks the work done by the local branch of the League of National Service in furnishing beautiful woolen sweaters and other articles of personal comfort to every member of the S.A.T.C. when the colder weather came. Likewise to recognize the work of the Y.M.C.A. and the National Lutheran Brotherhood who supplied our unit with Testaments, games, stationery, and other articles, such as music and musical instruments, and who had made all arrangements to unite in supporting a special religious instructor to look after the spiritual welfare of the young men

The extra amount of work caused by the S.A.T.C. was carried by all members of the teaching staff with great cheerfulness. Many courses were introduced, professors were shifted, hours of duty were enlarged, and yet every demand met with a willing response

Your president has been very happy to receive letters from men at the front appreciative of the real religious character of the work done in Wittenberg College. Some of these men, graduates of several years standing, have now gone into the ministry of their own denominations. . . .

The War Department has offered to establish a unit of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps in this institution. We have studied the question pretty fully in the faculty but without reaching a definite conclusion. There would seem to be good reason for such a corps here, but the students who were in the S.A.T.C. are practically a unit against it. I submit the matter to the Board for consideration

I wish to record in this permanent way the two large gifts announced at last commencement, the one of \$30,000 from Mrs. Mary B. Greenawalt, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, to establish a chair of Biology in memory of her husband, Dr. George Greenawalt. This money has been turned over to the treasurer of the college; the other is a proposed gift of \$30,000 from a Presbyterian friend who has given this institution other benefactions. \$15,000 of this has been paid in, the purpose being to endow the chair of History and Political Science.

Including members of the regular student body who



HAMMA HALL

served in the S.A.T.C., several hundred alumni and former students of Wittenberg are known to have seen service in the first World War. Of this number nine made the supreme sacrifice.¹ The 1919 annual was dedicated "To those honored dead who gave their lives in the struggle for democracy and world freedom."

Wittenberg's war record was a worthy one, yet the school was criticized by certain prejudiced persons who labeled all people of German descent as enemies of the country. It was due to the narrow-mindedness of such persons, for instance, that the teaching of German was dropped in high schools and colleges of America during the first World War. Anything faintly connected with German culture was singled out for ridicule. Some leading publications made Wittenberg an object of attack during those days when hot-heads and loose-tongues were shamefully prevalent. Resentment of such articles was strong among the students, though only passing reference was made to such defamation in the *Torch*. The school has been vindicated, however, as one looks back from the vantage point of an unbiased calm. Her sons and daughters in the service, including some who shed their blood and gave their lives, the S.A.T.C. unit housed on the campus, the patriotic services of administration, faculty and students in boosting war loans, Red Cross drives, and various campaigns connected with the war, lead one to be proud of Wittenberg's true patriotism during World War I. Wittenberg's Americanism, indeed, has been an outstanding feature from the time of her founding, as the facts of her early history make unquestionably clear. Indeed it is not too much to say that Wittenberg owes her existence to the determined purpose of her founders to free themselves and their church from foreign alliances and to take full part in American life.

1. As listed in the 1920 *Wittenberger*, they were: E. Gray Swingle, Neal D. Adelsberger, Wheldon Arbogast, Walter H. Weaver, Stanley G. Garver, Russell E. Lorton, Paul Knight, Harry A. Seeborn and Don W. Hoyner.

In the midst of the war activity the Wittenberg campus was excited by the news that Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, former president of the United States and a world figure, would visit the college. Doctor Heckert had succeeded in getting Mr. Roosevelt to speak in the chapel,¹ and as the news reached Springfield the citizens of the city began to ask for his appearance before the entire community. It was arranged that he would be introduced, but would not speak, to a large gathering in the city park on the afternoon of May 25, after giving his morning address in the college chapel. Not only was every chapel seat filled long before the time for his speech, but also the aisles and even the wide stairways leading up to the second floor where the chapel is located. For the first time in its history, martial law reigned at Wittenberg while the distinguished statesman addressed the students. As the twenty-sixth president of the United States stood in Wittenberg's chapel he declared: "The reason that I am glad to come here is shown in your service flag there, and your honor roll there. For three quarters of a century Wittenberg College has held an honorable position among educational institutions of the country. It has taught high ideals and the doctrine of straight Americanism. It has grown, and as it has grown it has rendered more and more service. Never has Wittenberg College rendered such a signal service as now in this great war for civilization and humanity."

The *Torch* gives a few sidelights on the visit which show the reaction of both the students and the statesman to this visit. "Col. Roosevelt was ushered into the chapel by President Heckert amid the cheers and applause of the audience. As he was being introduced to the members of the faculty, who were seated on the platform, the college men boomed forth

1. The chief factor in Roosevelt's decision to speak at the college was his desire to counteract the unfair and unjust criticism Wittenberg had received. He desired to right a wrong by focusing the nation's attention on his complete approval, following investigation, of Wittenberg's patriotism. Later his printed articles overcame the last remnants of criticism. See Theodore Roosevelt, *No Halfway Measures*, article printed in *Metropolitan* magazine, August, 1918.

with a single, loud "Teddy! Rah!" This seemed to please the visitor immensely . . . 'I will have to do a lot of explaining to other colleges after this,' said he. 'Why I have been promising to go to Rutgers for the past three years and intend to do so. It is the college of the Dutch Reformed Church, the church to which I belong. And now I find myself in a Lutheran chapel. Rutgers will begin to think I have backslidden.' He laughed and seemed to enjoy the joke that Wittenberg had played on Rutgers."¹ The visit of this colorful figure was one which students of that generation remembered for a long time to come.

A valuable member of the Wittenberg faculty was lost when illness forced a leave of absence upon Professor Hochdoerfer in 1918. Educated at Leipzig and Harvard University where he earned the Ph.D. degree, he had taught for several years at various schools, including Harvard, before coming to Wittenberg in 1891 as Alumni Professor of Modern Languages. He was one of the college's truly great professors. Among the honors which he held was that of being secretary and then president of the Modern Language Association of Ohio and later vice president of the Modern Language Association of America. He possessed wide knowledge and such cultural development as to make him highly appreciated wherever educated people gathered. For two years before he finally left Wittenberg, he tried to regain his health by a complete rest. His retirement was a keen disappointment to his colleagues. In honor of his services he was made professor emeritus.

Two buildings which Heckert eagerly desired for Wittenberg, did not materialize during his administration. Repeatedly he stressed the need for a combined gymnasium and auditorium, providing adequate facilities for a worthwhile

1. *The Wittenberg Torch*, Wednesday, June 5, 1918.

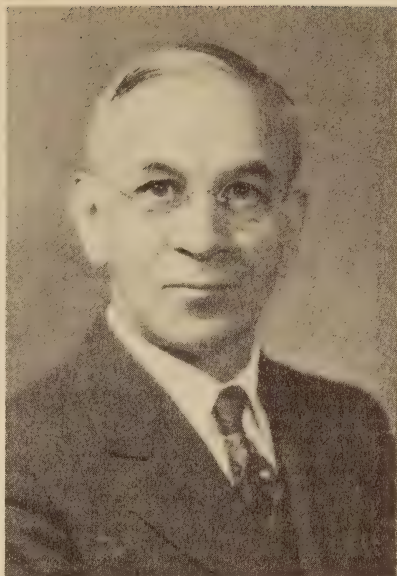
program in physical education and sports, and with a seating capacity large enough to accommodate the crowds attending commencement services or other programs. No money for such a purpose materialized while he was alive. Another desire of his was to see an astronomy building, or observatory, rise on the campus. A first response to his pleas along this line came in 1917 when he could report to the Board that a friend of the college (Mr. W. L. Blair) had given a total of twelve thousand dollars for such an edifice. War conditions did not permit the erection of an astronomical building at the time the money was received and so the fund lay idle. During the summer of 1917 Elgar Weaver presented a gift of six thousand dollars for the purchase of a telescope.¹

In 1918, for the first time in the history of the school, a Wittenberg football team went through a season undefeated. The coach that year was an Ohio State graduate known to everyone as "Buckeye" Hobt. He had been a stellar athlete during his student days and had just completed a year as coach of the high school team at Williamstown, Ohio, before coming to the college. Ernest Godfrey had volunteered his services to the government to help condition the men at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana. It was for the interim of his absence that Hobt was employed. With the return of Godfrey for the 1919 season, Wittenberg went through another schedule undefeated. In 1920 the almost unheard-of record of a third consecutive undefeated year was accomplished. The 1918 team played only four games, the schedule being restricted because of the war. Opponents conquered during the season included Wright Field Aviators, Denison, Ohio Northern and Kenyon. Wittenberg scored 88 points to 20 for her opponents. The school claimed the Ohio Conference title and *The Torch* proclaimed it the greatest team in the school's history, although

1. During the Tulloss administration, further generous gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Weaver were added to this sum, and the present gem of a building costing \$80,000.00 graces the campus and gives the students an opportunity to scan the heavens through a ten-inch telescope.



PROF. T. B. BIRCH



PROF. R. H. HILLER



DEAN C. G. SHATZER



PROF. B. H. PERSHING

the abbreviated schedule left that fact in some doubt. No captain was appointed for the 1918 season. In 1919 the team was captained by Lawrence (Pesty) Lentz who was supported by such men as Wilbur (Wib) Etter and William (Dutch) Trautwein, both of whom were chosen all-conference players; George Hall, a Sophomore chosen on the second all-conference team; and four more who received honorable mention: Herbert Littleton, Raymond Detrick, William Lange, and Stanley Kiley. In later years Trautwein as coach at Ohio University, and Detrick at Ohio Wesleyan, were to bring opposing teams to Wittenberg to play their Alma Mater. In playing eight games, the 1919 team was tied twice and won from five opponents by one-sided scores. The season's record was:

Wittenberg	53,	Earlham	0
Wittenberg	8,	Kenyon	7
Wittenberg	7,	Denison	7
Wittenberg	32,	Wilmington	3
Wittenberg	0,	Cincinnati	0
Wittenberg	58,	Otterbein	0
Wittenberg	33,	Ohio University	7
Wittenberg	61,	Ohio Northern	0
Total,	Wittenberg	252,	opponents 24

There could be little argument that this was a really strong team. As only two men, Lentz at half and Wentz at center, were seniors, it was taken for granted that the team would continue its winning ways another year. In 1920 "Wib" Etter captained the squad which went through a strong schedule without a tie or a loss. Scores for the year were:

Wittenberg	20,	Butler	0
Wittenberg	81,	Defiance	0
Wittenberg	82,	Hiram	7
Wittenberg	17,	Miami	0
Wittenberg	13,	Cincinnati	9

Wittenberg 19, Ohio Northern 7
Wittenberg 42, Otterbein 0
Wittenberg 7, Denison 0
Total, Wittenberg 281, opponents 23

Etter was named captain of the all-Ohio team, with Trautwein and Lange likewise placing on the first team. Hall was named to the second team. Among sports followers Wittenberg gained national recognition by the feats of its teams of 1918-1920.

Heckert had been providing Wittenberg with capable leadership for seventeen years when his health began to fail and he found the arduous tasks of the presidency becoming too much of a physical burden. The years 1914-1919 had been especially difficult, involving the labors of a financial campaign requiring great effort on his part, and the troublesome years of the war with its aftermath of readjustment. Six years before the Diamond Jubilee of the college, Heckert had suggested that the 1920 commencement should take special note of the seventy-fifth anniversary. Prominent men participated in the program, including Charles F. Thwing, president of Western Reserve University, Henry W. Elson, president of Thiel College, and Charles S. Bauslin of the Board of Education of the United Lutheran Church of America. But when the time arrived the president could have little part in it. Only by staying in seclusion at his home the entire day preceding commencement, was he able to be on hand to present the diplomas. Because extensive publicity had been provided, a large number of alumni were present to enjoy the class reunions and witness the events of commencement week, but they learned with sorrow of Heckert's ill health. At the Board meeting, a few days before, he had tendered his resignation as president in the following paragraphs:

It is with real sadness that I am compelled to offer my

resignation as President of Wittenberg College. More than seventeen years ago you called me to this most honorable and responsible position. These years have been filled with devotion to your interest and with duties of an unusual character, because of the great war from which we have just emerged.

As you will recall, I was engaged single handed in a mighty effort to raise endowment when we were overtaken by the entrance of our great country into the world struggle. Our position as a college was threatened for certain reasons that need not be rehearsed.

I had a solemn duty resting on me—to maintain our beloved school, and at the same time to show to the country that people with some admixture of German blood could be not only loyal but really intensely loyal.

So I threw myself into the support of our government with a zeal that at last broke my health, leaving me with a serious heart impairment.

I greatly desire to continue in some real connection with the college for it is my heart's joy, but it is impossible to continue as at present.

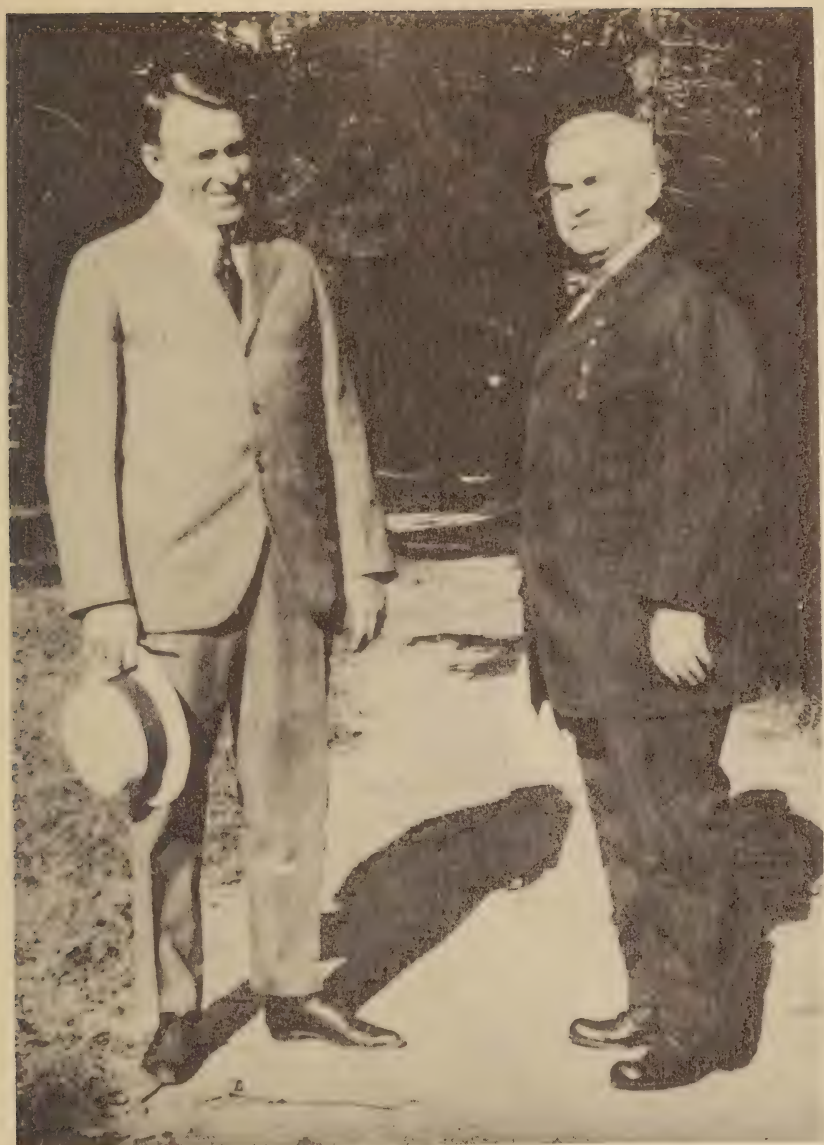
My duties this coming year, if I am to be retained in any capacity, must be such as I can reasonably perform without worry and with due regard to health conditions. During the local drive for funds the responsibility for the work must be assumed by some other person or some committee.

In conclusion, allow me to thank earnestly Dean Shatzer and all members of the two faculties who have had their burdens increased by my ill health. These men and women have carried forward the work without any complaining. I sincerely thank the Board for strong support and warm cooperation during the years I have labored under its control. My prayer to the God of our dear church is that He will send another to take up this important task and lead us into a yet stronger place as an educational force in America.

When Heckert gave further, extemporaneous remarks which made it clear that his resignation would have to be ac-

cepted, a committee of two members from each synod, one from the Alumni Association, and one from Clark County was appointed to nominate a new president for the college. This committee was composed of the following ministers: A. E. Renn, C. B. Etter, E. Ortlepp; A. B. Garman, C. J. Kiefer, and J. H. Culler. In addition the following seven laymen were appointed: J. E. Miller, W. H. Romey, Hon. E. K. Strong, Herman Behlmer, John L. Zimmerman and Judge A. H. Kunkle.

A committee on President Heckert's resignation expressed the sincere regrets of the entire Board in the termination of his tenure of office. They praised the efficiency and devoted service of his administration. Then three recommendations were made to the Board. First, that the resignation be accepted with deep regret. Second, "That we do hereby express our earnest desire and prayer that his health may be restored and that he may be spared in comfort and usefulness for years to come. It is the earnest hope of your committee that the Head of the Church, whom he has served among us, may deal graciously with him in the remaining days of his earthly pilgrimage." Finally they recommended that Heckert be named President Emeritus and given an annual stipend of fifteen hundred dollars. The recommendations were adopted and the action closed with prayer, offered by the secretary of the Board, the Reverend A. H. Smith, D.D.



PRESIDENT HECKERT AND PRESIDENT-ELECT TULLOSS

PART VII

THE ADMINISTRATION OF REES
EDGAR TULLOSS

Chapter XVII

The Golden Years

For some time preceding Heckert's resignation the Board members had been contemplating a financial campaign, aimed at securing a large sum of money for Wittenberg in order to meet its more urgent needs and greatly to strengthen the institution at many points. A committee made a report on this proposed campaign on May 31, 1920, at the same session at which the president's resignation was accepted. The report took into consideration the needs of the college and seminary "in order to make Wittenberg College equal to any other denominational college in Ohio, and to properly equip and endow the institution."¹ A great many things were considered in this report, including new buildings, increases in faculty salaries, building repairs, a central heating plant, additional professors, further endowment, campus landscaping, religious programs, and other items. The school of music was to be enlarged and the Academy given a new location. An estimate of the amount of money needed to accomplish everything that was desired placed

¹ Board minutes, Journal for years 1917-1921, p. 196.

the total at one million, five hundred and sixteen thousand dollars. It was recognized that the raising of such a sum was an immense undertaking, but the Board gave approval to each item in the plan and authorized a campaign which should seek to raise the entire amount needed.

The proposed effort was an important factor in the choice of a man to succeed Heckert in the presidency. It was apparent to all that the new president had to be a man whose knowledge of finance and whose organizing ability was such as to help to guarantee the success of the endeavor. The nominating committee reported that it had found the type of man it was seeking in the person of Doctor Rees Edgar Tulloss, pastor of the First Lutheran Church in Mansfield. He was a man of unusual attainments, whose name had been mentioned not infrequently as a possible successor to Heckert in the presidency of Wittenberg, when the latter should retire. Doctor Tulloss was born near Leipsic, Ohio, in 1881. Following his graduation from the high school at Leipsic in 1896, he entered business for six years, developing the Tulloss School of Touch Typewriting. Then he continued his education at Wittenberg, graduating in 1906 as an honor student, having served, also, as captain of the football team. In 1909 he received his bachelor of divinity degree at Hamma Divinity School. His first charge was at Constantine, Michigan, which he left after six years in order to pursue graduate work. After one year at Johns Hopkins University he entered the graduate school of Harvard University where, in 1918, he received his Doctor of Philosophy degree in the field of psychology. While at Harvard he served as a psychologist and director of instruction at the United States Naval Radio School in Cambridge. His research work in this connection resulted in the development of new procedures in radio training, greatly shortening the time required. The United States Navy adopted for its exclusive use his "Instruction Book in Radio Operating." Declining an

invitation to join the teaching staff at Harvard, Doctor Tulloss went to the pastorate of First Lutheran Church in Mansfield, Ohio, one of the largest Lutheran congregations in the country. There he gave the church an aggressive leadership, adding five hundred members in less than two years time.

Upon the recommendation of the nominating committee, the Board unanimously elected him as the seventh president of Wittenberg. At the evening session on May 31, he appeared before the Board to announce his acceptance of the office, speaking of his deep interest in Wittenberg as a school of the church, and of his hope that upon the foundations laid in her seventy-five years of history, a really great institution might be developed. He urged a resolute determination to carry through the vitally important campaign for needed funds, and pledged his whole-hearted devotion to the tasks of his office. Within a few weeks, on July 1, he assumed his new duties, setting up offices in a down-town building in Springfield, and proceeding to develop the campaign organization. The general campaign committee, at first fearing to undertake too large a goal lest the appeal end in partial failure, was finally won over to an attempt to secure the full amount approved by the Board. The campaign for \$1,500,000 was under way!

Throughout the summer of 1920 Doctor Heckert rested in order to recover some of his former strength and by the time school opened in the fall had regained his health sufficiently to accept the direction of the campaign in Springfield and Clark County. Doctor Tulloss, as general director of the campaign, secured the services of Mr. C. H. Dreshman of New York City, a professional campaign director, and appointed the Reverend O. H. Pannkoke, D.D. to be in charge of publicity.

A statement by President Tulloss appearing in the first issue of the *Wittenberg Torch* that fall, reveals the high hopes,

the zeal and the energy with which he plunged into the task ahead. Entitled, "Our Future", the message read as follows:

Dear Fellow Wittenbergers:

We are beginning this week what promises to be a notable year for Wittenberg.

An enrollment which promises to be the largest in our history; an increasing interest in the college throughout the Church and in the City of Springfield; the great appeal for funds which it is expected will add at least \$1,500,000 to our resources—these are factors which presage the coming of a new and greater Wittenberg.

New buildings are planned for. For years they have been the object of our hopes, now they must become realities. . . . Better salaries for our loyal and sacrificing instructors! Increased equipment! Enlarged teaching force! New departments! All these things are coming.

The foundation was strongly laid by the founders. The ideals were firmly maintained by their successors. Now, at the moment toward which all the events of Wittenberg's history have converged, her leaders have set themselves to meet the challenging opportunity of the present, and make Wittenberg the outstanding Lutheran School of America.¹

Enrollment soared to the highest in the school's history when four hundred and fifty registered as regular, full-time students in the college in the fall of 1920. This was thirty-five percent above that of the preceding year and helped to justify the prediction that Wittenberg might in a few more years take its place among the unquestionably strong schools in Ohio and the Central West.

This was the time of mergers within the Lutheran Church in America, and Wittenbergers were having a hand in bringing to pass the new unity. John L. Zimmerman, who was so active

¹ *The Wittenberg Torch*, September 16, 1920, p. 1



PRESIDENT REES EDGAR TULLOSS, D.D., Ph.D., LL.D. 1920-

in behalf of Wittenberg, was chairman of a delegation of laymen who proposed to the Joint Quadricentennial Committee that, following a united celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of the Reformation, the three national Lutheran bodies working together in that celebration should merge into one body. This was the start of a series of definite steps leading in 1918 to the formation of the United Lutheran Church in America.

During the first week in November, 1920, three Lutheran Synods in Ohio which had previously supported Wittenberg College, and the District Synod of Ohio (General Council), met in Springfield and united in what has since been known as The Synod of Ohio of the United Lutheran Church in America. The installation of President Tulloss was planned for the week when the four synods were to send their delegates to Springfield. The day after the merger, November 5, 1920, impressive services of inauguration were conducted in the Fourth Lutheran Church. Preparatory to his inaugural address, Doctor Tulloss read a few verses of Scripture from the Bible of Ezra Keller, first president of the college, and marked by his hand. The title of the inaugural address was, "The Place of the Small College in Education." Many colleges and universities were represented by official delegates.

Meanwhile the Greater Wittenberg Appeal had been gaining momentum. An auspicious start had been made at the Board meeting the preceding June when pledges were received from faculty members totalling more than twenty-five thousand dollars and from Board members totalling more than fifty thousand dollars.¹ The first substantial pledge to be announced

¹ Appeals to the Board members were presented by Dr. Heckert, President-elect Tulloss, Dr. Bauslin and others. Interesting was the reaction of a layman from Indiana who pledged \$1000.00. He said later: "I had come to the meeting resolved to give nothing. What won me over was the sight of Dr. Bauslin in his threadbare coat, standing there and pleading for our help. I thought of his years of service, of his meager salary, of the sacrifices made by him and his associates, and I could not refuse to do my part." The Board pledges included \$25,000 for an addition to the library by John L. Zimmerman; the faculty pledges included \$10,000 from Dr. and Mrs. S. E. Greenawalt, payable at her death.

was that of a large gymnasium and auditorium, including sufficient endowment to maintain it, secured by Dr. Heckert from the Hon. C. F. McGilvray. The gift caused considerable excitement and jubilation at the time it was announced, but in the end the donor was forced to change his mind, though Wittenberg did benefit substantially through a later annuity gift from his widow. A week later a second great gift was announced, a chapel to cost approximately \$75,000. Again rejoicing was great, though as the years passed this gift, too, was not forthcoming.¹ Meanwhile, in a less ostentatious way, the campaign was showing real progress. Doctor Henry C. Roehner, as general chairman of the church division of the campaign, had worked carefully with President Tulloss in arranging all details for an appeal to the Lutheran churches upon the territory supporting Wittenberg. November 1, 1920 was the date established for the opening of the church campaign which was to last one week. As reports poured in from these congregations they told the story of quotas met and frequently oversubscribed. John L. Zimmerman promised a gift, which was soon forthcoming, to enlarge the library at a cost of twenty-five thousand or more dollars. A Springfield citizen who wished to remain anonymous promised twelve thousand five hundred dollars to beautify the campus. Mr. and Mrs. William H. Schaus of Springfield made an annuity gift to endow a professorship of religious education and Sunday School work. At Christmas time Mr. and Mrs. George M. Pitney of Leipsic, Ohio, life-time friends of President Tulloss and his family, presented their large and fertile farm to Wittenberg. The rich land and the farm buildings were estimated to be worth twenty-five thousand dollars, and were presently sold for that amount. A Toledo business man who would not permit his name to be mentioned² gave twenty-five thousand dollars to be

¹ In lieu of this gift, the donor in 1929 made a generous contribution to the Wittenberg Health and Physical Education Building.

² The late Mr. Paul Heyman of St. Matthew's Church.

applied to ministerial scholarships. All through the campaign Tulloss was devoting much of his time to traveling over the territory, speaking in churches and before various gatherings, meeting with the workers and counseling with the leaders. A male octette was organized among the student body and appeared in many churches and at rallies which were held in the interest of the campaign.

Meantime the Springfield campaign had gone forward propitiously. When it became clear that the total appeal would be a success, a victory celebration was held in Springfield. On the night of November 22, 1920, the local campaigners and many who had participated in the church and alumni campaigns, gathered at the Shawnee Hotel in Springfield. At this dinner speeches of congratulation, singing of college songs, and light-hearted rejoicing prevailed. Faculty members expressed their satisfaction in contemplation of an era of better salaries and more adequate equipment for their class rooms and laboratories. Alumni were jubilant in the thoughts of a stronger college and seminary. Those who had taken part in the labors of the past months were happy in the knowledge that victory had been achieved.

The success of this venture meant as much to Doctor Heckert as it did to anyone, but he could not be present to celebrate the achievement of the goal. One week previous to the jubilant occasion he had been stricken with a recurrence of a heart ailment, and with other forms of illness. From his sick bed he sent messages of encouragement and cheer to the hundreds of workers engaged in making the appeal. In the delirium of his last illness he talked constantly of the college and the campaign. On Tuesday morning, December 7, 1920, he entered life eternal. Students, saddened by the news, immediately passed resolutions of tribute to him, extending comfort to

the family.¹ Doctor Tulloss spoke of his great ability, his energy and fervor in furthering the interests of Wittenberg, and of his contributions as a wartime president. At the funeral in Fourth Lutheran Church, conducted by his pastor, the Reverend W. E. Brown, D.D., President Paul Koller of the Synod of Ohio, Judge James Johnson of the Ohio Supreme Court, and Doctors Tressler and Tulloss took part. Six professors served as pall bearers. Interment was in Ferncliff cemetery where four other former presidents of Wittenberg lay buried.

In mid-winter of the 1920-21 school year, announcement was made that Professor Paul H. Heisey, Ph.D., had been called to fill the chair of religious education. At the time he was instructor in philosophy and psychology in the University of Dubuque, Iowa. He was experienced both as a pastor and as a teacher, and came to Wittenberg to accept the professorship established in recognition of the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Schaus.²

Meanwhile reports continued to come in from the Greater Wittenberg Appeal as the work was concluded in various sectors. By mid-February the first general summary report of the campaign was issued, showing that gifts and subscriptions amounting to \$1,665,000 had been received to date. It was expected that the final summary would reach a total of \$1,900,000. This total included the two buildings which were prom-

¹The students also raised funds for the placing of a marble memorial tablet in the college chapel. It reads as follows:

IN MEMORY OF
THE REV. CHARLES GIRVEN HECKERT, D.D., LL.D.
SIXTH PRESIDENT OF WITTENBERG COLLEGE

Born in Northumberland, Pa., March 22, 1863

Died at Springfield, Ohio, Dec. 7, 1920

SCHOLAR, TEACHER, PREACHER,

LOYAL CITIZEN, FRIEND

Placed here by the Students, June, 1921

²Although the income from the Schaus annuity gift was not to be available during the life-time of Mrs. Schaus, in view of the hoped-for usefulness of the proposed department the Board authorized its support from general college funds.



· CAMPAIGN GLEE CLUB, 1920*



FERNCLEIFF HALL

ised but were never given.¹ On February 26, 1921 still more encouraging news was received. On that date President Tulloss announced that the negotiations which he had begun with the General Education Board (Rockefeller Foundation) immediately following his election had reached a successful conclusion, and that Wittenberg would receive a gift of \$233,333, conditional upon Wittenberg's increasing the fund to \$700,000, the income to be used for the specific purpose of increasing faculty salaries. Wittenberg's obligation in this connection, in addition to expected payments upon available campaign pledges required the raising of approximately \$120,000 in new funds.²

Space having been given to the football teams of 1918-1920, it is only fair to state that this was also a period when Coach Godfrey was producing some fine basketball teams. In 1921 Wittenberg lost to Ohio State by one point, the score being 27 to 26. Princeton University was defeated the following week by a score of 33 to 10. In the Ohio Conference the college lost the state title in the last game when defeated by Ohio University, finishing the season with twelve victories in fifteen conference games. In addition to Detrick and Trautwein, football stars who also shone in basketball, a third member of that year's team was William Lange. All three later became coaches of rival colleges in the Ohio Conference.³ Raymond Detrick was high scorer for the season with a total of 203 points, followed by Lange with 144. Etter, Trautwein and Hummon were next in order. This was one of Wittenberg's stronger basketball teams.

¹The grand total of the pledges made in the campaign was \$1,800,000. As is indicated above, two of the promised larger gifts were not realized in full, and not all smaller pledges were collected. Nevertheless, the funds actually secured represented the largest sum ever gathered at one time by a Lutheran college.

²Non-payments on pledges increased to \$300,000 the funds sought in the later special appeal. The needed sum was eventually raised in time to receive the Rockefeller gift. The facts relating to that project will be recounted on later pages of this history.

³Detrick at Ohio Wesleyan, Trautwein at Ohio University, and Lange at Muskingum.

On June 6, 1921, Doctor Tulloss presented his first report to the Board on behalf of the faculty. In contrast to the brief statements made by former presidents, he presented a complete picture of the life and condition of the school, together with hopes and recommendations for the future. In connection with the Greater Wittenberg Appeal, he announced the generosity of Mr. W. L. Blair, a banker of Nevada, Ohio, in presenting "a gift now totalling about \$80,000.00 to be used for an Academy or other building". He related that Mr. Blair "is not a Lutheran, has never seen the college, but is a friend of education and has chosen Wittenberg as the object of his benefactions because he is convinced that 'Wittenberg gets more for its dollar than any college in the State of Ohio' ". Tulloss then stated that on Commencement Day two new gifts would be announced. One was for ten thousand dollars to endow a memorial lectureship on preachers and preaching. This was the gift which established the Kessler Lectures, bringing a real blessing to the seminary students and to the pastors on Wittenberg territory. One of the lectures, upon the claims of the Christian ministry as a life-work, is delivered before the students of the college at a general convocation. The other gift consisted of the entire estate of Doctor Heckert, subject to annuity payments to his widow, which would be used for the endowment of the chair of English.

Upon the president's recommendation, Professor H. G. Harp, who had been serving as acting assistant professor of mathematics, was elected an assistant professor in that field; F. H. McNutt, principal of the Academy and assistant professor in the Department of Education, was granted a leave of absence because of ill health; Miss Alice Mower and Miss Rose Cadwgan were regularly elected to the faculty of the college with the rank of assistant professor. The low salaries paid to the faculty¹ could now be increased. A general salary sched-

¹ Prior to 1920 the highest salary paid to a full professor was \$1800.

ule was adopted providing for the payment of salaries as follows:

Full professors	\$2750—\$3000
Associate professors	\$2400—\$2750
Assistant professors	not to exceed \$2400
Acting assistant professors	not to exceed \$1800

When Doctor Tulloss assumed the presidency at Wittenberg the faculty was one of which the institution could well be proud. In his first report to the Board he was able to quote professors at two other Ohio colleges who paid high compliments to the superiority of the Wittenberg faculty. Tulloss immediately saw one weakness, however. Because of the shortage of funds the able faculty was being kept small in number and a goodly portion of the teaching load was put upon the shoulders of a large group of student assistants who were honor students. It was now possible to increase the faculty, and to eliminate all actual classroom instruction from the duties of the student assistants. In 1921 several new professors were added. With the opening of a department of home economics, Miss Louise Lahr was called to direct this new activity. Mr. Christian Van Riper was hired as assistant professor of economics. An instructor at Ohio State University where he had earned his master's degree, he proved to be an able teacher on the Wittenberg faculty. His service continued until 1938 when he resigned on account of ill-health. The office of dean of men was now created and a call extended to the Reverend Ross Miller, who was planning a year's study at Harvard, to accept the position one year later. This he did, becoming the first dean of men in Wittenberg's history. M. O. Tripp, Ph.D., joined the faculty at this time as professor of mathematics.

In 1921 the tuition at Wittenberg was increased to one hundred dollars per semester, with an additional fee of fifteen

dollars to include registration, library, Torch and athletic fees. Even with the increase, Wittenberg's tuition was still lower than the rate charged at similar denominational colleges in the state.

As President Tulloss studied the entire management and curriculum during his first year in office he saw the need for a number of changes and improvements. Many of these were adopted by the Board in 1921, others came later, and in a few years time there was a marked difference in the affairs of the college. The increase in the size of the faculty has been noted. Not only were new courses added, but entire departments were introduced to the curriculum. New and more efficient methods were adopted in the matter of student records, office procedure, and financial collections. Indicative of the changes being effected was a new arrangement for the management of the Summer School and the Saturday School. Both of these had been in operation for a number of years but had been conducted as more or less independent enterprises. Their finances were separate and independent from those of the college. In 1921 they were both made a distinct part of the activities of the institution. Later the Extension Department was added and all three of these were grouped together under the heading of Special Schools.

In the fall of 1920, as has been stated, the new president was greeted by the largest student body in the history of the college. A total of four hundred fifty enrolled as regular, full-time students. Thereafter for some years Wittenberg consistently ranked near the top among all colleges in the annual increase of enrollment over that of the previous year. By 1922, six hundred and three students were registered in the college. A new peak was reached in the grand total, which included those students listed as attending Summer School, Saturday School, the Academy, etc. This figure rose to twelve hun-



THE FACULTY OF 1922-23

dred twenty in 1922. As a result of this expansion, eleven new professors joined the faculty. Among them was Frederick Lewis Bach,¹ appointed as director of the School of Music. It was the plan of the administration and of the Board to establish a new and strong School of Music, and Professor Bach's appointment was a result of that desire. He had made splendid records as director of the Schools of Music at Adrian College and at Heidelberg University. The president's report, presented in December, 1922, stated: "He has surrounded himself at Wittenberg by a capable faculty, the members of which have made a very pleasing impression upon the musical circles of Springfield and this section of the state. . . . Friends of Wittenberg College are now able to refer with pride to the musical department of our institution and to recommend it to young people who are desirous of securing a musical education. The School of Music is offering a complete list of musical courses leading to the granting of the degree of Bachelor of Music at the end of a four years' course of study."²

Another new professor was Paul R. Brees, in the department of Public Speaking. On a later page the outstanding achievements of Wittenberg students in oratory and debate will be told.

Ross Miller assumed his duties in the newly created office of Dean of Men.³

Professor H. F. Martin, Ph.D., who had taught in the 1922 Summer Session, and who was later to head the Department of Education in the college, accepted a temporary assignment in the seminary, teaching some of the courses previously offered by Dean Bauslin whose death occurred in the

¹Dr. Bach remained as director until his resignation in 1936. Two other teachers of music added at this time, Mr. and Mrs. John Thomas Williams, are still continuing their work. In 1934, the Wittenberg School of Music was given full accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music.

²President's Report, as printed in Wittenberg Bulletin, December, 1922, p. 5.

³Dr. Miller served as Dean of Men and Assistant Professor of English until 1926 when he was granted a leave of absence in order to study for the doctorate at the University of Edinburgh. Returning to the campus in 1928, he became Associate Professor of Ethics. In 1932 he became Professor of Bible and Comparative Religion in which position he continued until his resignation in 1937 when he accepted the pastorate of the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Springfield.

spring of 1922. In the rearrangement of teaching schedules in the seminary, L. H. Larimer, who had been teaching Old Testament, was transferred to the department of Homiletics and Practical Theology, and Elmer E. Flack was called to the professorship of Old Testament Language and Literature. In addition to a successful pastorate in Chicago, Professor Flack had been pursuing graduate work at the University of Chicago. Professor V. G. A. Tressler, Ph.D., D.D., served as dean of the seminary at this time, succeeding the late Doctor Bauslin.¹

Many changes in the business operations of the institution were taking place during the early years of Doctor Tulloss' presidency. These were helping to strengthen the institution in many ways. Significant among these changes was the one described thus: "A new system of accounting is being installed in the college office, and a system of voucher checks has been adopted for the payment of bills."² In the matter of registration, bookkeeping, handling of college funds, and in other ways, the college offices were undergoing changes which brought decided improvements.³

¹ Doctor Bauslin passed away in the spring of 1922. At the meeting of the Board in June, 1922, it was voted to place in the hands of the president of the college the appointment of a chairman of the seminary faculty and a registrar of the seminary. In accordance with this authorization, on Commencement Day of June, 1922, President Tulloss announced the following appointments: Chairman of the seminary faculty and administrative head of the seminary, the Reverend Professor V. G. A. Tressler; registrar of the seminary, the Reverend Professor L. H. Larimer.

At the meeting of the Board in June, 1923, President Tulloss proposed a new procedure in the matter of all administrative appointments, including headships of departments. The Board approved this plan and gave authority to the President to appoint such chairmen and administrative officers each year, "prior to the issuing of the college catalog for the following year." In accordance with the procedure thus approved, President Tulloss included among his list of appointments the name of V. G. A. Tressler as dean of the Hama Divinity School. It appears from the above that Doctor Tressler performed the duties of the deanship from June, 1922, and was formally designated as such in June, 1923.

² Printed edition of President's Report, December, 1922, p. 15.

³ Many interesting side lights on campus life could be recounted if space permitted. One such is the following. In the fall of 1922 a story went from student to student across the campus one frosty morning. It concerned some Wittenberg undergraduates and Calvin Coolidge, who by then had become the chief executive of our nation. Mr. Coolidge had come to Westerville, Ohio, to address a group of students at Otterbein College who had formed a Republican organization. The president was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. Members of this fraternity from several Ohio colleges, including several boys from Wittenberg, attended this political rally. After making his speech, the president seemed to enjoy an hour with his youthful fraternity brothers, singing fraternity songs, telling stories, and giving autographs. The Wittenberg students had absented themselves from their classes without permission. Upon learning this, the president of the United States graciously obliged by addressing a petition, on the back of an envelope, to the dean of the college, asking that the men whose names appeared thereon be excused from their classes on that date. College officers have a great variety of experiences while serving in the line of duty.

During the school year 1922-1923 a new office was created by the provision that was made for a dean of women. This procedure followed the action taken in establishing the position of dean of men. Both offices were made necessary by the greatly increased number of students on the campus. The first dean of women at Wittenberg was Miss Grace C. Webb. After three semesters she was succeeded by Miss Ruth Immell, the present incumbent.

Since 1908 Professor T. B. Birch had been introducing into the curriculum courses related to the general field of education. These courses were in addition to those he offered in the field of philosophy and psychology. The number of students seeking these courses in education was constantly increasing. In 1922, Doctor Birch asked to be relieved of his work in teacher-training in order to devote himself to his special field. To meet this situation President Tulloss recommended that a department of education be established. This was done and a strong department soon emerged. First man to serve as head of this department was Horace F. Martin, Ph. D., who had specialized in the field of education and had previously taught in Wittenberg's summer school and in the seminary.¹ Other presidential recommendations which the Board approved in December, 1922, were: the expansion and strengthening of the academy, the establishment of a department of physical education, the adoption of a plan to provide a football stadium, the employment of a director of publicity, the establishment of the office of alumni secretary, and the addition of six professors to the teaching staff.

These recommendations brought many new personalities to Wittenberg, some of whom were to be identified with the

¹In 1926, upon the resignation of Dr. Martin in order to accept the Presidency of Midland College, the work of the newly established Department of Education was placed in the hands of Franklin H. McNutt, then Assistant Professor of Education, under whose leadership the Teacher Training work at Wittenberg won the distinctive recognition which it has since retained. In 1930 Dr. McNutt was named Professor of Education and Director of Teacher Training. This position he continued to hold until 1936 when he resigned to become State Supervisor of Teacher Training.

institution for a long time. Mr. K. G. Lind became director of publicity; Doctor F. K. Kruger joined the faculty as a professor of history, political science and sociology; and Mrs. Phoebe Mary Luehrs Tripp, Ph.D., began her long period of part-time service in the English and German Departments. Some other new professors were A. T. Volwiler, Ph.D., in history; William C. Beaver, Ph.D., in Biology; William Kurtz Gotwald, Ph.D., in history; and Parl L. Mellenbruch, Ph.D., in education.

A new feature in the service rendered by Wittenberg to public school teachers was introduced in February, 1923, when the first Wittenberg Educational Conference was held. Doctor Martin, as head of the department of education in the college, had prepared the plans for the conference. More than two hundred teachers took advantage of the opportunity to attend. After listening to addresses by well-known educators, the conference separated into smaller groups to discuss special problems. These groups later brought back reports to the re-assembled convention. College authorities were well pleased by the praise which this conference drew. Because of the success of this undertaking, the conference continued to be held in following years.

Beginning in September, 1923, the tuition was increased ten dollars per semester, with an additional student budget fee of ten dollars. Wittenberg's tuition rates still remained among the lowest in the state.

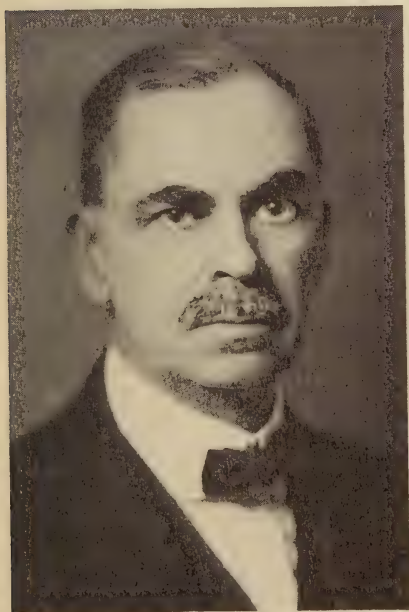
A fine spirit of cooperation and friendly interest has existed between Wittenberg and other organizations within the church. Illustrative of this was the loan in 1922-23 of members of the Wittenberg staff to various church agencies. Most outstanding was the leave of absence granted to Dean Charles G. Shatzer in order that he might become executive secretary of the Lutheran Laymen's Movement, to which work he gave his full attention for two years. During his absence Doctor



DEAN D. H. BAUSLIN



DEAN V. G. A. TRESSLER



DEAN L. H. LARIMER



DEAN E. E. FLACK



SEMINARY FACULTY AND STUDENT BODY — 1927

Martin filled the position of dean of the college.¹ In loaning the services of its dean, the college was giving proof of its loyalty to the church at large. During the month of February, 1923, one of the college's field secretaries, Mr. H. B. Gerhardt, was loaned to the Synod of Ohio for the purpose of assisting in the Stewardship Campaign being conducted throughout the synod. A letter from the president of a sister Lutheran college bears testimony to additional unselfish service which Wittenberg was rendering in those days. From President Hoover of Carthage College, the following expression of gratitude was received:

"The Board of Trustees of Carthage College at its recent meeting passed unanimous and hearty resolutions of appreciation of Wittenberg College, and particularly of the act of the president of Wittenberg College, in giving the valuable services of President R. E. Tulloss, and the three field secretaries, Rev. Carl A. Sundberg, Rev. John W. Berger and Harry B. Gerhardt, to Carthage College during the County Drive last Spring. This is an unusual act and a new step among colleges and we thoroughly appreciate the same."²

At another time President Tulloss spent a week on the territory of Midland College for the purpose of aiding in the campaign for one-half million dollars which that school was conducting. By such acts Wittenberg was strengthening itself in the field of public relations and indicating its interest in the general work of the church at large.

The ambition to secure a stadium for the college was drawing nearer to realization at this time. Mr. E. C. Jansen and Coach Ernest Godfrey directed the work of soliciting support from the citizens of Springfield for this project through the sale of paid-up life insurance policies. Their efforts met with

¹ During Dean Martin's administration the location of the dean's office was transferred from Carnegie Science Hall to its present location in Recitation Hall where the files of the registrar and other college officers were more readily accessible. Dean Martin left Wittenberg in the summer of 1925, to assume the presidency of Midland College.

² See printed report of the president for June, 1923, p. 37.

such success that The Wittenberg Stadium Company was incorporated under the laws of the State providing for incorporations not for profit. Construction was begun in the spring of 1923, with the first game being played on the new field in the fall of that same year. The stadium provided seats for five thousand spectators and has served the college well since its erection.¹

Upon the recommendation of President Tulloss the Board established several scholarships to encourage graduate work on the part of able students. Two scholarships, each of two hundred and fifty dollars per year, were provided for Wittenberg graduates who desired to do further work at a university. Another scholarship of equal amount was provided for a graduate of Hamma Divinity School desiring to carry on graduate study at some recognized university. Such action gave rich promise of strengthening the development and academic standing of graduates of the institution.

One of the college's most pressing physical needs was met during the school year 1923-24 when a large addition to Ferncliff Hall, the girl's dormitory, was completed. The old section of the dormitory was remodeled extensively at the same time. As a result, the structure presented a most pleasing appearance and provided accommodations for about one hundred forty young women. This improvement in rooming facilities for women students was one of the first benefits of the financial campaign of 1920.

Hamma Divinity School had three deans in quite rapid succession in the early "twenties." After the death of Doctor Bauslin, Professor V. G. A. Tressler was appointed dean, but was not permitted to serve in office very long.² One of Wittenberg's great scholars was lost to the school when Professor

¹ The original financing plan fell short of realizing its goal, and the expected payments through increased gate receipts at games never materialized. It was not until 1945 that the Board of Directors was able to adopt a plan for the final liquidation of the stadium indebtedness, in part through the use of some of the funds contributed in the Alumni campaign of 1941-45.

² See footnote 1 on page 248.

Tressler passed away on September 1, 1923. At the time of his death he was a member of the executive board of the United Lutheran Church in America. Prior to the merger of 1918 in which the United Lutheran Church was formed, he had been president of the General Synod. President Tulloss said of him; "Doctor Tressler was gifted by nature with an unusually brilliant intellect. During his four years in Gettysburg College he took practically every scholarship prize offered. When he received his Ph.D. from Leipzig University it was "*magna cum laude*." The quality of his mind showed forth at every turn. He was witty in conversation, wise in conference, interesting as a speaker, capable as a planner and leader. As a teacher, he showed a keen alertness to every side of the truth, and a rare skill in arousing and holding the interest of his pupils. In the wider field of the work of the Church, Doctor Tressler rendered valuable service. The highest positions within the gift of his Church were his. To say that he had a multitude of friends is to illumine that common phrase with rich and beautiful meaning."¹ Named as successor to Tressler was Loyal H. Larimer of the seminary faculty, who was at that time completing twenty years as a professor in Hamma Divinity School.

An interesting development in the student life came in the fall of 1923 when all appeals for financial support ordinarily made to the students by various campus organizations were united in a single campaign, known as the Student Chest. The general pattern of organization and procedure followed that of the Springfield Community Chest which President Tulloss had led in organizing the preceding year. A fund of thirty-eight hundred dollars was sought for the support of the Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., college band, European student relief,

¹ See printed copy of President's Report, December, 1923, pp. 3, 4. Dean Tressler bequeathed his entire library of 4,000 volumes to the seminary for the use of seminary students. In his will he made provisions for the establishment, at a later date, of a scholarship to assist seminary graduates in pursuing their studies at recognized graduate schools.

and other worthwhile purposes. The goal was exceeded by nearly fourteen hundred dollars, and the student chest was made a permanent organization on the campus. Soon after its inception an item was added to the budget, providing for the support of Wittenberg in China. By this means, in one year, twelve potential Chinese religious leaders were able to continue their studies in Christian seminaries in China.

Continuing the interest in scholarship and student development which had characterized Wittenberg from its founding, President Tulloss appointed various committees, soon after he took office, to interest the better high school students in attending the institution, and to encourage a higher grade of scholastic attainment on the campus. In December, 1923, he announced to the Board that a "quality point system" was being developed and would soon be adopted. Such a system required as a prerequisite to graduation, not only the completion of a certain number of hours of work, but also a certain number of "quality points," indicating grades of a satisfactory character. In other words, the student must average a grade of "C" or better throughout his college course in order to be graduated. This system was put into effect at the start of the second semester of the school year 1923-24 and has been retained since that date. Another new project was the establishment of "Honors Courses." These were first offered in the fall of 1924. A limited number of students of superior ability who desire during their Junior and Senior years to specialize in particular fields may by official vote of the faculty be admitted to these courses, ranging from three to five hours of credit. In these courses the student is relieved of the necessity of attending a regular class. Instead, he pursues independent study and investigation under the direct guidance of a professor. Such an arrangement permits the gifted student to develop as rapidly as his talents make possible.

As a further encouragement to students to apply themselves to their studies and win scholastic honors, an annual honor day banquet was arranged. At this banquet, in the presence of all the students and faculty, the dean made announcement of scholarship awards. The students who had distinguished themselves in the various lines of college endeavor such as publications, debate, and other fields were recognized. After a number of years this practice was changed to an honor day convocation, with a similar purpose and program. Still later two annual convocations were arranged for, known respectively as "Academic Honor Day" and "Activities Honor Day."

Some idea of the increasing enrollment at Wittenberg during the first few years of the Tulloss administration can be gained from the following figures.

COLLEGE CLASSES ONLY				GRAND TOTAL
Year	Men	Women	Total	Including All Special Schools
1919-20	233	165	398	971
1920-21	256	194	450	1068
1921-22	366	237	603	1220
1922-23	400	320	720	1245
1923-24	457	344	801	1576

Because the size of the student body was growing beyond the capacity of the college class rooms and dormitories, the number of freshmen to be admitted was limited in September 1923 to three hundred. During that school year the number of students in any one class was limited to forty in order to guarantee each student the obvious benefits of such restrictions. During the next school year this limitation was reduced to a maximum of thirty students, a regulation which has since continued in effect. These restrictions, and the increased enrolment, created the need for many new instructors, with the re-

sult that twenty-six names were added to the faculty register in 1924. Indicative of an ever-widening field from which students could select the subjects they desired, one hundred new courses were offered by the larger faculty.

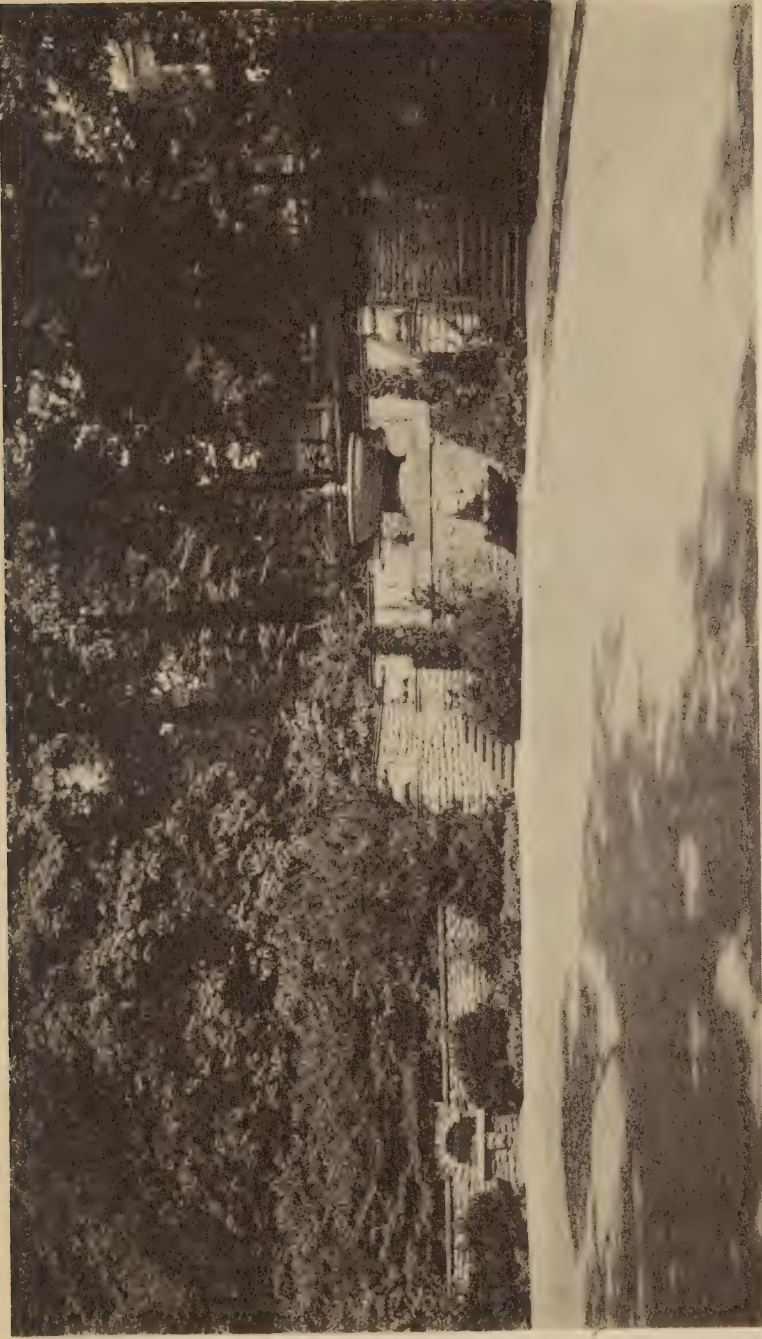
Wittenberg's careful attention to scholastic requirements and academic attainment is recognized by accrediting agencies in higher education. At its December meeting, in 1923, President Tulloss reported to the Board of Directors: "Wittenberg has at the present time been recognized by every important accrediting agency in America with the one exception of the Association of American Universities."¹ One year later he could add these statements: "It is a pleasure to be able to announce to the Board the most important academic recognition which Wittenberg College has as yet received. On November 1, 1924, Wittenberg was placed upon the accredited list of the Association of American Universities.

"Only about twenty per-cent of the liberal arts colleges in the country have been given this recognition. The requirements for accrediting by this Association have been heightened year by year. It has therefore become increasingly difficult to secure accrediting. Wittenberg has now been successful in meeting all requirements. The recognition puts a distinct stamp of approval upon our work.

"Our first petition to this body was submitted in December, 1922. Various supplementary reports have followed. The high percentage of faculty members holding the Ph.D. degree, the reduction of the size of classes to a maximum of thirty, the distinct financial progress of Wittenberg in recent years, and the general attitude of the institution in handling its academic matters and insisting upon satisfactory work upon the part of the students were important points considered by the Association."²

¹ Printed President's Report, December, 1923, p. 9.

² Printed President's Report, December, 1924, p. 5.



CAMPUS ENTRANCE



KOCH HALL

While the college faculty was expanding, additions were being made to the seminary staff as well. In 1923 Professor A. O. Becker, D.D., came to the campus to teach Christian missions to the theological students. He was installed at the same service at which E. E. Flack and L. H. Larimer were installed in the chairs of Old Testament exegesis, and homiletics and practical theology, respectively. The following year J. O. Evjen, Ph.D., was called to the chair of church history in Hamma Divinity School. Educated at Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis, where he earned the A. B. and B. D. degrees, he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Leipzig University in 1903. After serving pastorates in America for a few years he entered the teaching profession. He taught in several seminaries and colleges and served as president of the Normal College at Mayville, North Dakota. He served one year as professor at Carthage College prior to his call to Wittenberg. Doctor Evjen was the author of many works and a contributor to learned volumes. He was at home in several languages. As a teacher he made a lasting impression upon his students who respected him highly for the breadth of his knowledge. His service in the Seminary was concluded in 1930.

The first celebration of Founder's Day was held on March 11, 1924. This event was inaugurated for the purpose of acquainting the student body with the ideals, the struggles and the perseverance of the founding fathers, and to convey something of their spirit to the present generation. Each year the day is observed in a manner which is quite impressive to both students and faculty. On the first Founder's Day, President Tulloss presided, both the girls' and the men's glee clubs sang several numbers, and the college orchestra played, under the direction of Professor Bradford G. Gilliland. Professor B. F. Prince spoke on "The Need of an Institution of Learning for the Lutheran Church in Ohio." The Honorable John L.

Zimmerman addressed the students on "Springfield and Wittenberg College." Professor J. P. Schneider completed the speaking program, taking as his subject, "The Spirit and Purpose of Wittenberg College." As a part of the observance of this day, students annually place wreaths upon the graves of the five former presidents of Wittenberg who are buried in Ferncliff Cemetery.

The second building project on the campus, resulting from the financial campaign of 1920, was the addition to Zimmerman Library. Additional space was needed greatly to provide room for the larger number of volumes in the possession of the college, and to give students more reading space. The pledge made by Mr. John L. Zimmerman in 1920 resulted in a sizable addition to the original library building, the enlarged library being dedicated December 2, 1924, while the Board was in session. The dedicatory exercises consisted of a liturgical service in the college chapel conducted by Dean Ross Miller, and an address by Professor J. P. Schneider on "The Place of the Library in the Life of the Small College." Following this, the group went to the Library building where the Reverend E. W. Simon, D.D., offered prayer, and an address of presentation was made by the Honorable John L. Zimmerman, LL.D. President Tulloss made an acceptance speech after which Doctor Prince pronounced the benediction.

One matter left unfinished at the time of the financial appeal of 1920 was the matter of raising \$467,000.00 for the endowment, in order to receive from the General Education Board the sum of \$233,000.00 as an endowment gift. In order to receive this amount, Wittenberg had to raise its share by May 1, 1925. In his annual reports, President Tulloss kept this matter before the Board. Finally, in December, 1924, he said: "The matter of greatest importance before us at the present time is the problem of raising the needed \$467,000.00 in

order to secure the gift offered by the General Education Board.

"Of this amount, the sum of \$171,000.00 is in the hands of the treasurer at the present time, leaving approximately \$300,000.00 which must be raised in actual cash before May 1, 1925.

"The Board may well give much of the time of this meeting to a discussion of this problem and to a consideration of the form of appeal necessary to secure the needed funds."

The outcome of the Board's discussion of this subject was the decision to conduct a "Clean-up Campaign" in which all subscribers to the 1920 appeal who had not yet paid their pledges should be approached and encouraged to complete their payments. Added to this was an attempt to secure as large an additional sum as possible. In the City of Springfield it was felt desirable to limit the efforts to the collection of pledges previously made, looking forward to a later campaign for a fund with which to erect a needed building. Throughout the churches, sixty per-cent of the congregations on the territory accepted the proposal to assume responsibility for the payment in full of all pledges made through the local congregation which had proved uncollectable for one reason or another.

Standing off from such a campaign one cannot adequately realize the great amount of work that is necessary on the part of many individuals in order to achieve success. Nor does one, by merely reading the account, become engulfed in the spirit which overwhelms those who actually give themselves enthusiastically to a cause. Emotional appeal reached its peak in the last days of the effort to secure sufficient funds to receive the grant from the General Education Board. To an unusual degree, a bulletin issued by the college offices on May

¹ President's printed report, December 1924, p. 14.

1, 1925 conveys the feelings and sentiment of all who were concerned, when final victory was announced. The bulletin is reprinted here:

A GREAT DAY! A Glorious Victory! An overwhelming appreciation of God's goodness! Heart-felt appreciation of the loyal help of great numbers of loyal workers!

At 8:00 o'clock last night the broadcasting station was ready to send out news of victory. Student body had assembled for the report and in preparation for celebration.

Students were splendidly loyal, though disappointed. The broadcasting message explained why the expected report of success could not yet be made. Assurance was stated that some time today the announcement of success would be possible.

At 5:00 P.M., telegram from Wheadon, Constantine, had stated gift of \$1000 conditioned on success had been mailed. At 5:30 telephone message from Mrs. Everhard with same news regarding her gift of \$5000. 6:00 P.M. wire from Hon. C. L. Knight—would help with \$1000. Still more was needed.

Closed the office at 10:00. At 11:30 telephone from Roehner, Mansfield. After mid-week service he had gone out and secured \$1000. Giver had then gone elsewhere and secured \$1000! Mid-night rejoicing! Goal almost assured. (This morning this same giver secured another \$1000.)

Office in morning full of excitement as mail was opened. John L. Zimmerman here with inquiries and concern. Remittances promised by wire all here. \$1000 extra from Massachusetts on which no definite promise had previously been made. Hasty gathering together of checks, listing, and delivery to Treasurer.

9:45! Student body assembled south of Recitation Hall. Band playing! Cheering! Dean Miller in charge of the meeting.

Dr. Prince prays as only one could, who has served a college for 58 years.

President reads telegram just prepared for sending to District Chairmen—

"With praise to God and deep appreciation of work of devoted helpers we announce successful completion of campaign. Four hundred sixty seven thousand three hundred dollars in hands of treasurer this morning. More on the way. Students are celebrating."

Interrupted by student cheering at words "successful completion of campaign." Telegram finished. More cheering! Applause! On many cheeks, tears.

President states briefly what the campaign has meant: hard work everywhere by great numbers of workers; anxiety; struggle; sacrifice. But also new interest, fine loyalty, rare devotion, great service. Victory will mean increased prestige, greater power to serve.

Expression of thanks to Anspach, valued assistant; Gerhardt; Rider; Isley; Lind; Office force; Large Giver Workers, represented by Speaker—who collects everything, even automobiles; the synodical officials represented by Rev. John B. Gardner; City workers, who have done valiantly in collections; the students, source of inspiration and object of our service; the Faculty, who have worked untiringly. Mr. Zimmerman, enthusiastically applauded, speaks briefly.

Cheering as only students can cheer! Then off with the College Band and the "New Ark"—the donated automobile—at the head of a procession for a student march through the city. No more class work today!

Joy everywhere!

Congratulations!

Hand clasps that mean more than words can express.

Voices breaking with emotion.

Older faculty members, who have lived through the years of great hardship,—whose loyalty was tested long ago as by fire—standing together in little groups talking.

The General Education Board is notified by wire that the conditions of Agreement No. 256 have been met.

And so it is over.

Telegrams of congratulations are coming in. Inquiries by long distance are happily answered with the news of Victory.

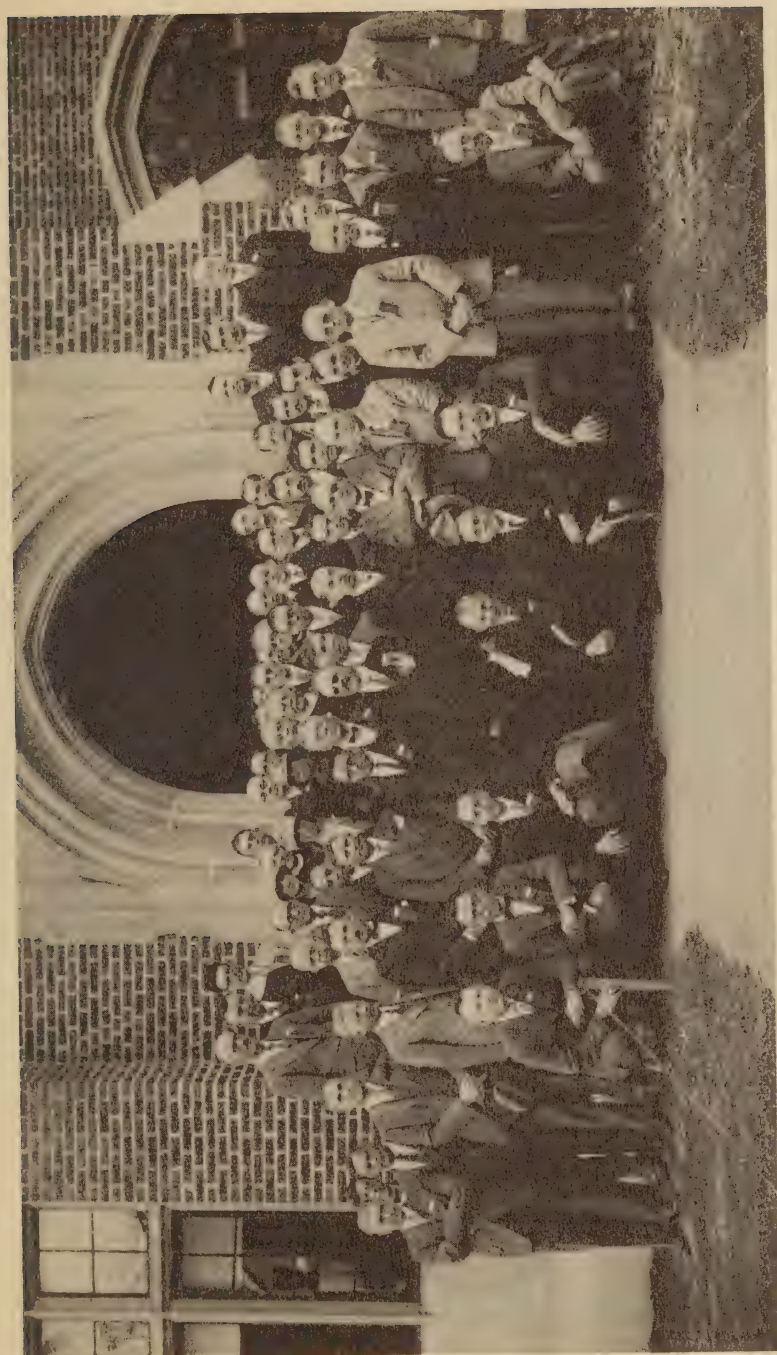
After Gethsemane, Easter!

"Praise the Lord, for He is nigh unto all that call upon Him. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear Him."

Chapter XVIII

Wittenberg Arrives

A successful culmination of the financial appeal put many new and desirable attainments within the reach of Wittenberg. As a result, the next five years were to bring the college to a point of development where the fondest dreams of the founders were, in most respects, more than realized. Doctor Martin L. Reymert came to Wittenberg at this time as professor of psychology and director of the psychological laboratory. Wittenberg's department of psychology soon developed into one of real merit, with great prestige being derived from the psychology symposium which was held a few years later. This symposium, which drew world-renowned psychologists to the Wittenberg campus, will receive proper attention on subsequent pages. Wittenberg has the distinction of being one of the few colleges to establish a department of biography. To this date only two other institutions are known to have such departments. Professor Paul F. Bloomhardt, a Doctor of Philosophy from John Hopkins University, combined the duties of this new department with teaching duties in the field of history, when he came to Wittenberg in 1925. Doctor G. P. Voigt was another new member of the faculty at this time, in the English department. Professor H. J. Arnold assumed the direction of the extension department and taught in the department of psychology. In the seminary, Henry C. Offerman began his duties as assistant professor of New Testament. Others were added to the faculty at this time. Also, in the fall of 1925, Professor C. G. Shatzer, who had been on leave of absence for two years, in the service of the Laymen's Move-



THE CHEMISTRY SYMPOSIUM, 1930



BLAIR HALL

ment of the United Lutheran Church, returned to his position as dean of the college. Several of those mentioned are still with the college in the centennial year.

For some years the faculty had been considering the possibility of granting bachelor's degrees other than the Bachelor of Arts degree. The science course had been soundly established in 1883, when Dr. Edgar Fahs Smith, later the provost of the University of Pennsylvania, returned from his graduate study in Germany, to begin at Wittenberg his distinguished career. It had now been part of the curriculum for several decades. The erection of the proposed new science building would make possible a still more satisfactory training in this field. President Tulloss stated that those who had completed the science course and had entered engineering pursuits, felt themselves handicapped at times by the fact that they had received the Bachelor of Arts degree rather than the Bachelor of Science degree. In the field of education a somewhat similar situation existed. The president recommended, therefore, that at such time as the faculty might deem it desirable, Wittenberg should begin granting the additional degrees of Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Science in Education. This recommendation was adopted by the Board and in June, 1928, the granting of such degrees was begun.

In 1922 Professor Weaver and students in the physics department had originated a college radio station in order to carry on experimental work in the new field of electronics. From 1924 onward the station was known by the call letters WCSO (Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio). It was evident that a large field of usefulness existed for a broadcasting station of sufficient power to reach all parts of the Wittenberg territory. Publicity was a valuable asset accruing from such activity. In connection with the campaign of 1925 it was possible to set aside the sum of five thousand dollars for the pur-

pose of enlarging the radio plant. In 1925 the Board adopted a proposal presented by President Tulloss that a 1,000-watt broadcasting plant be erected, "the total cost for equipment, including towers and aerial, not to exceed \$5,000.00."¹ When this action was carried through to completion the college enjoyed the distinction of being among the first to possess such facilities. The radio station offered students an opportunity to broadcast, and many with talents in the field of music or speech took advantage of this. Intercollegiate debates and oratorical contests, chapel programs, and other college activities were broadcast. Each week the religious education department, under the direction of Doctor Heisey, broadcast a review of the Sunday School lesson and suggested methods of teaching it.²

Notwithstanding restrictions on Freshmen enrollment, Wittenberg's student body continued to increase at a rapid rate. During the school year 1925-26, those enrolled in college classes totaled 875; one year later this figure had risen to 964. The grand total, which included the academy, the music school, the seminary and the summer school, reached 1993, and in 1926 rose to 2466.³ This expansion necessitated further additions to the faculty. During the six year period from 1920 to 1926 the Wittenberg faculty increased fourfold; from a mem-

¹ See printed President's Report, 1925, p. 30.

² In the depression year of 1930 the station was sold, merged with an Akron station and transplanted to Cleveland, where it has been known as Station WGAR.

³ The following enrollment figures are of interest:

	COLLEGE CLASSES ONLY		GRAND TOTAL	
	Men	Women	Total	Including Specials, Music, Divinity Summer School, Saturday School, Extension
1914-15	217	90	307	972
1915-16	218	116	334	1,119
1916-17	248	147	395	1,158
1917-18	185	144	329	788
1918-19	229	135	364	1,023
1919-20	233	165	398	971
1920-21	256	194	450	1,068
1921-22	366	237	603	1,220
1922-23	400	320	720	1,245
1923-24	457	344	801	1,576
1924-25	481	372	853	1,884
1925-26	489	386	875	1,993
1926-27	578	386	964	2,466
1927-28	568	435	1,003	2,487
1928-29	591	468	1,059	2,825

bership of 20 it rose to 82. Among the new names in the fall of 1926 were Miss Leila K. McNeill, Doctor Daniel T. Krauss, Doctor B. H. Pershing, Doctor and Mrs. H. G. Bishop, John Bennett Ham, G. Vernon Kelley, and Miss Grace Lippy. Professor Krauss has remained as a teacher of business administration; B. H. Pershing, who came to Wittenberg from the acting presidency of Thiel College, served as Wittenberg's dean of men for nineteen years and is now devoting full time to the field of history. Professors Ham and Kelley remain in the departments of music and public speaking, respectively.

At the Board meeting in June, 1925, approval had been given to the proposed erection of an academy building (presently changed in plan so as to provide for the needs of the growing department of teacher-training), and a science hall.

Soon thereafter the Board also acknowledged the need of a central heating plant and a college gymnasium. Committees were appointed to prepare plans and to investigate possible sources of financial help for these proposed buildings. The cornerstone laying of the education building, now known as Blair Hall, took place on June 8, 1926. A part of its cost was provided by the gift of \$80,000 made by Mr. Blair during the financial campaign. The other buildings were to appear within a few years.

In order to facilitate the business and financial transactions of the college offices, the position of college controller was established. The first man to be called to this office, in 1926, was Mr. Earl H. Marshall, who continues to serve in that capacity with quiet efficiency. Two other offices created in 1926 were those of assistant to the president, and vice president of the college. The latter position was simply revived, having existed previously for two brief periods. Two years before, this position had been declined by the Reverend David H. Huber, D.D., pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand

Rapids, Michigan. Now he was willing to become vice-president of the college and was elected to that position. His title was "Vice-President, Related to Finance and Expansion." Doctor Huber served two years, speaking before congregations on the work of the college and seminary, and establishing contacts with pastors and laymen throughout the territory. He was the third and last man to hold the office of vice-president in the first century of Wittenberg College. Various duties were attached to the other office created at this time. The assistant to the president was to direct religious activities on the campus, serve as a means of contact between students and parents, and work in the field of publicity and alumni relationships. Paul E. Keyser, then a student in the seminary, faithfully performed the duties of this position until he entered the ministry upon the completion of his seminary training. Because the largest share of his time was devoted to religious activities he was listed officially in the catalog as director of religious activities. Mr. Dorner Keyser was another who identified himself with the college at this time, in the capacity of director of admissions and alumni secretary. Later he became assistant to the president, in which position he was widely known and respected by students and alumni. Still another name was added to the official family of the college with the acceptance by Mr. Eli A. Jensen of the office of business manager. Until his death in 1943 he was an important and highly valued member of the administrative staff. His ability in the field of business and finance proved of great benefit to Wittenberg.¹ The next year, 1927, another man who was to remain with Wittenberg for many years joined the faculty. This was Doctor John W. Barker, elected as assistant professor of chemistry, and who later succeeded Doctor Linn as head of the department. Another addition to the chemistry department was J. Wayland

¹ Mr. Jensen was elected Treasurer of the College in June, 1942. His service in this important office was cut short by his death the following January.

Morgan, who had received his doctorate *cum laude* from the University of Chicago. Professor Maurice J. Neuberg, Ph.D., came to Wittenberg at this time as associate professor of education. In ensuing years he was to make a contribution of unusual merit in originating and directing a personnel department at Wittenberg.¹ His aptitude tests and other measurements of a student's talent and ability were a help to the young people in selecting a vocation or profession. The results of the tests also assisted faculty counselors in understanding the students who were placed in their charge. Recognition was given to Doctor Neuberg's work by various educational journals. He remained with Wittenberg until 1942, when he was released for service with the Army. His death took place in 1944.

In June, 1927, R. Morris Smith, as acting principal of the academy, presented the last report on behalf of that department of the college. He stated that the enrollment was forty-four, of whom twenty-three were strictly academy pupils. He concluded with these statements: "With this report the Academy, as an institution of learning, will close its work. Perhaps there is less justification at the present for the continued existence of the Academy than heretofore. The excellence of our larger city High Schools and the steady centralization of rural schools with High School features have effected a change as to the necessity for academies. This change is being felt in many quarters. That the Academy has served a most useful purpose and supplied, in years past, a most urgent need in the higher education of our youth is but stating a truth apparent in the educational history of the Academy's graduates. As matters stand at the date of this report, the Academy will graduate twelve in its last class."² Closing of the academy came as the result of Board action at a previous session. Thus one of the

¹ Prior to this, Professor Paul L. Mellenbruch had served as chairman of a faculty committee on tests and measurements. Doctor Mellenbruch was therefore the originator of this program at Wittenberg.

² See printed report of president and other officials, June 1927, pp. 186, 187.

departments of Wittenberg which had begun when the college itself was organized, came to an end. In 1845, when the first college classes were held in the First Lutheran Church of Springfield, the academy was opened to prepare students for work of college standing. From First Church the academy moved to Myers Hall, where it remained until Recitation Hall was completed in 1886. In 1923 it moved into quarters provided in Ferncliff Hall, to complete its years of service.

-An illustrious former student of the Wittenberg Academy was honored during the spring commencement in 1927. Mr. Sherwood Anderson, who had spent a year in the academy at the close of the nineteenth century, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature. Mr. Anderson had left Wittenberg in order to work for an advertising agency in Chicago. He was somewhat restless in his work because he constantly felt an urge to write. Before the day when the knowledge was widespread that "life begins at forty," he celebrated his fortieth year by ending his business career and turning to writing. He had chosen wisely, for his first published work was a success. It appeared in 1916 under the title, "Windy McPherson." His best known work is "Winesburg, Ohio." Before he died he had produced twenty-four novels which gained wide circulation, and earned him a reputation as one of America's foremost novelists.

Wittenberg reached one of its peaks of academic attainment in 1927 when, under the leadership of Professor M. L. Reymert, an international psychological conference was held, under the name of The Wittenberg Symposium on Feelings and Emotions. This scientific conference drew to the campus a host of scholarly men who had achieved distinction in the field of psychology. Doctor Reymert secured specially written papers from fifteen European psychologists to be read at the meetings. In addition, twenty leading psychologists of America



FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH CONFERENCE
WITTENBERG COLLEGE
SPRINGFIELD OHIO - APRIL 4-5-6-1930

YOUTH CONFERENCE, 1930

appeared in person to take part in the program.¹ Four days were devoted to the sessions which began October 19, 1927, and ended on October 22. The registered delegates in attendance numbered three hundred thirty-one. Many important publications sent representatives to report on the proceedings and the newspapers throughout the country carried daily accounts of the sessions. Men of prominence were generous in their praise, enabling President Tulloss to report that "several nationally known psychologists have expressed their opinion that this was the most notable gathering of psychologists ever convened in this country." Papers read at the various sessions were published under the title "Feelings and Emotions: The Wittenberg Symposium."

Over one hundred official delegates were registered for the conference on chemistry which was held at the same time, under the chairmanship of Professor A. F. Linn. Distinguished scholars in the field of chemistry were present, including Colonel H. L. Gilchrist, chief of the medical division of the chemical warfare service, and professors of chemistry at many universities.² These scholarly meetings were held in connection with the dedication of another new building on the Wittenberg campus which was devoted to the work of chemistry and psychology. The building was named Koch Hall in testimony to a gift of approximately a quarter million dollars which Judge and Mrs. John H. Koch of Ohio City contributed to the college endowment fund. This splendid building with its well-selected equipment, cost over \$240,000.00. It contains several laboratories, many classrooms, a library, and an audi-

¹ The participants, all of whom enjoyed wide scholastic reputation, were: Alfred Adler, F. Averling, Vladimir M. Bekhterev, Maidson Bentley, G. S. Brett, Karl Buhler, Walter B. Cannon, Harvey A. Carr, Ed. Claparede, Knight Dunlap, Robert H. Gault, D. Werner Gruehn, L. B. Hoisington, D. T. Howard, Erich Jaensch, Pierre Janet, Joseph Jastrow, Carl Jorgensen, David Katz, F. Kiesow, F. Krueger, Herbert S. Langfeld, William McDougall, Henri Pieron, W. B. Pillsbury, Wilhelm Stern, George M. Stratton, John S. Terry, Margaret F. Washburn, Albert P. Weiss, Robert S. Woodworth.

² Among the distinguished chemists present were: Dr. E. C. Franklin, Leland Stanford University; Dr. W. D. Harkins, Chicago University; Dr. W. A. Noyes, University of Illinois; Dr. Edgar Fahs Smith, University of Pennsylvania, former head of Wittenberg's Science Dept.; Dr. H. P. Cady, University of Kansas; Dr. Alexander Silverman, Pittsburgh University; Dr. William McPherson, and Dr. W. E. Henderson, Ohio State University; and Dr. E. E. Slosson, distinguished lecturer and writer on scientific subjects.

torium. On the third day of the conferences the newest building on the Wittenberg campus was formally dedicated amid unusual academic display.

Before the conferences closed, a number of leading scientists in America and Europe received honorary degrees from the college.¹ The sessions were productive of results contributing to scientific advance in both psychology and chemistry. Those who had expended their efforts in behalf of the conference felt well repaid for their labors.

In the fall of 1928 another professor was added to the seminary faculty. The number of men training for the ministry at Hamma had been increasing steadily. The annual report of the dean stated that more students were enrolled than at any previous time in the history of the seminary. During the school year 1927-1928, there were sixty-one men studying for the ministry at Hamma Divinity School. A call was extended to the Reverend Doctor John F. Krueger to teach practical theology in the seminary, and from Shantung, China, where he was serving as a missionary, he sent a favorable reply. With the resignation of Professor Offerman, who was leaving Hamma in order to join the staff of Union Theological Seminary in New York, the addition of Doctor Krueger kept the seminary staff at the full quota of six professors. Prior to his commissioning as a missionary, J. F. Krueger had served pastorates in the West, earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree at the University of Nebraska, and was for several years the president of Midland College. He remained at Wittenberg until his untimely death in 1935.

The years 1927 to 1931 mark a period of new building construction on the Wittenberg campus. Blair Hall and Koch

¹ Degrees awarded were as follows: (except where specified, the scientist named was a resident of the United States) James McKeen Cattell, L.H.D.; Walter Bradford Cannon, LL.D.; Margaret Floy Washburn, Sc.D.; Joseph Jastrow, LL.D.; William McDougall, Litt.D.; Karl Buhler, Austria, LL.D.; Charles Spearman, England, LL.D.; Felix Krueger, Germany, Sc.D.; Wilhelm Stern, Germany, LL.D.; Renri Pieron, France, LL.D.; Pierre Janet, France, LL.D.; Frederico Kiesow, Italy, LL.D.; Edouard Claparede, Switzerland, LL.D.; Alfred Adler, Austria, LL.D.; Vladimir M. Bekhterev, U. S. S. R., LL.D.

Hall were erected during that time. These structures relieved the acute shortage of class-room space and with their architectural beauty brought added charm and dignity to the campus. Soon after their completion a still more imposing structure was begun. This was the new Health and Physical Education Building for which the students and administration had been longing ever since Wittenberg had developed a strong interest in athletics at the close of the nineteenth century. After Doctor Tulloss assumed the presidency the need for such a building was presented to the Board on frequent occasions. Finally the plan was conceived whereby a campaign would be conducted in the city of Springfield for three-fourths of the required amount. This proposal met with the approval of many of the Springfield citizens who were interested in Wittenberg College. After much advance preparation, the campaign was opened on May 21, 1928, closing shortly thereafter on June 1. The goal was \$300,000.00. Springfield newspapers cooperated heartily in the drive. Editorials pointed out the cultural, educational, and economic asset which the college represented. The need of the building and its great usefulness both to the school and to the city were mentioned. By June 1 the goal was slightly exceeded and the long desired physical education building was assured.¹

Two newspaper clippings are of interest in describing the part taken by the city of Springfield in this financial effort. The *Springfield News* reported:

“Enthusiasm such as attended the successful culmination Friday night of the campaign in Springfield to raise

¹ Among the large givers were the following:

Mrs. Addie McGilvray, to provide for the erection of the natatorium section of the building	\$25,000
Former Governor James M. Cox	25,000
Mr. James Turner, Organization Chairman of the Campaign	11,000
Mr. H. W. Eakins	10,000
A friend who preferred to remain anonymous	15,000

There were eight gifts of \$5,000 each. Mrs. McGilvray later doubled the amount of her gift, making it \$50,000.

\$300,000 toward the \$400,000 fund asked by Wittenberg College for a Health Education building has not been seen in this city for many a year. It was significant in more than one way. It attested the genuine good-will and interest of the city in doing its part to further the interests of its institution of higher learning. But more than that it was a spontaneous exemplification of the new civic spirit of Springfield which is pushing the city onward to a period of expansion such as it has never known before. The campaign inaugurated a new era in Springfield.

"The appeal for funds for the Health Education building was the first plea of its kind that Wittenberg, one of Springfield's greatest assets both culturally and industrially, has made to the city alone in years. Its success was well deserved. The organization of 375 men who solicited funds from May 22 to June 1 stayed shoulder to shoulder during the long period, actuated by the same altruistic desire, to show the appreciation of Springfield in a substantial manner for the many benefits the college confers upon the city.¹"

The editor of the *Springfield Sun* wrote:

"In the halls of Wittenberg are cups, trophies, pennants and rolls of honor that perpetuate the glorious annals of the college. One of Springfield's trophies won by civic loyalty, a trophy of triumph, is to stand on Wittenberg's campus, enduring as stone and steel can make it, a temple dedicated to a sound mind in a sound body, to health and the happiness that comes from clean living.

"Springfield has chosen to build the bodies of youth and to scatter afar over the land the gospel of giving that others who come after us may stand on stronger and firmer ground to fight the battles of civilization.

"It is the fifth building to be started under the administration of Doctor Rees Tulloss, the man who had faith enough in Springfield to dare what others said could not be done. He knew Springfield and Springfield has measured up to his trust.

¹ From an editorial in the *Springfield News*, June 2, 1928.



MUSIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS



BAND AT PEP RALLY

"Henceforth the city can say proudly: 'Our Wittenberg' not in ownership, not in pride of possession, but in fellowship, in appreciation, in proven friendship. Henceforth the men who worked on the drive can wear on their spiritual shoulders the Cardinal and Cream and on their spiritual breasts the 'W' which signifies the Warrior for Wittenberg."¹

On Saturday, November 17, 1928 the breaking of ground for the new building took place. Formal opening of the completed edifice occurred on February 14, 1930. The writer recalls the wonder of students who witnessed the transplanting of huge shade trees which were part of the beautiful landscaping. The main gymnasium provides a seating capacity of twenty-seven hundred when used as an auditorium. A basketball floor is provided on the commodious stage as well as two courts on the main floor. The state Class B High School basketball tournament finals have frequently been held in the Wittenberg gymnasium. There are offices, class rooms and exercise rooms, as well as rooms equipped for wrestling, boxing, handball and other sports. A splendid swimming pool is named McGilvray Natatorium after the generous donor. A trophy hall and a spacious and attractive lounge are part of the building. The central heating plant which had been discussed so often in Board meetings was incorporated into the new building. Total cost of the complete edifice was approximately one-half million dollars. By means of this expenditure Wittenberg's equipment for health and physical education was such as to place it among the best in the nation. Upon the completion of the building a department of health and physical education was established with Professor Oliver Cornwell as its head and with a staff of six members. An extensive program of intramural sports soon appeared, bringing the benefits of improved health to all students who attend Wittenberg.

¹ Editorial in the *Springfield Sun*, June 2, 1928.

In this same field of activity Wittenberg College provided an unusually fine opportunity for high school coaches to study under the nation's foremost coaches and athletes. A summer coaching school had its inception in the summer of 1927. Ernest Godfrey arranged a course of instruction, of two weeks duration, under the following staff of instructors: Coaches Lief of Notre Dame, Willaman of Ohio State, Lange of Muskingum, Detrick of Ohio Wesleyan, Godfrey and Trautwein of Wittenberg, and Cartledge of Steubenville High School. Only forty high school coaches availed themselves of the opportunity, but their enthusiasm was such that the school was continued. In the summer of 1928 the famous names of Glen S. Warner, Leland Stanford football coach, and F. C. Allen, basketball mentor of the University of Kansas, attracted two hundred forty-three student coaches from thirty-three states. The next year Knute Rockne of Notre Dame and Doctor Walter Meanwell, director of athletics at the University of Wisconsin, headed the coaching school staff. The total enrollment was two hundred eighteen student coaches, representing thirty-two states. Continuing the "famous name" method, Robert Zuppke, football mentor of the University of Illinois, and Doctor F. C. Allen, were hired for the summer of 1930 when another successful school was held. The Wittenberg Summer Coaching School was a victim of the depression, having to be discontinued after those few successful years.

On the more esthetic and the cultural side, Wittenberg continued to make rapid advance. In 1929, under the direction of Professor G. P. Voigt, Ph.D., the college inaugurated one of the first departments of American literature to be established among American colleges. The school of music was enjoying growing prestige under an able faculty. With the provision of additional buildings for the use of the music department there was greater satisfaction on the part of both the students and the professors of music. The director reported

that twenty-five pianos and three organs were used exclusively for teaching and practice.¹ On another occasion he was able to state that the State Supervisor of Music had written to the effect that she had never seen better rural work than that conducted by graduates of Wittenberg's school of music.² During the first semester of the school year 1929-1930, the women's glee club and the men's glee club were merged into a Wittenberg College a capella choir, under the direction of Professor John Thomas Williams.³ Nearly one hundred students made up the new organization which immediately became an important one both in student life and as a representative of the college. Wittenberg orchestra and choirs have annually made extensive concert tours covering several states. Within a few years after its organization the choir was broadcasting over the national radio networks.

For some years the youth conferences held at intervals by the Augustana Synod of the Lutheran Church had been attracting the attention of friends of Wittenberg. At one of these conferences Mr. Paul E. Keyser, then director of religious activities at Wittenberg, was present at the request of President Tulloss, and brought back an extensive report of the gathering attended by one thousand youth from twenty-one states. Until the erection of the Physical Education building no adequate auditorium was available for holding such conferences on the Wittenberg campus. With this problem removed, the desire for such an enterprise led to the formation of plans for a conference of young people in the spring of 1930. The Reverend Paul E. Keyser, then serving a pastorate at Marysville, Ohio, assumed the chairmanship. Doctor F. H. Knubel, president of the United Lutheran Church in America, headed the list of distinguished persons who appeared on the program. Men with special appeal to youth were brought as speakers. A

¹ Forty pianos, five organs, and more than \$5,000 worth of band instruments are now available to the music students at Wittenberg.

² See printed report of president and other officials, June 1928, p. 145.

³ Since 1943 Mr. Williams has served as Director of the School of Music.

total of five hundred thirty-two delegates registered, with at least another four hundred attending one or more of the sessions. There were eighteen hundred present at the closing session on Sunday morning, April 6. A proper division of the program into addresses and small discussion groups dealing with various youth problems added to the value of the three-day conference. Unanimously the delegates and visitors voted in favor of a second such conclave. Certainly the delegates returned to their homes with a better comprehension of the ideals and program of the Lutheran Church and with a deeper devotion to its program. In this way Wittenberg was again making its contribution to the church at large, as well as aiding in the development of youth upon its territory.

During the commencement program of 1930 an illustrious alumnus of the college was given an honorary LL.D. degree. The Reverend ZeBarney Phillips had entered the Episcopal ministry following his graduation from Wittenberg in 1895. His mother had wanted him to take his last year of college at a prominent Eastern university because it was so much better known. But the youthful Phillips replied: "Not on your life. We'll make Wittenberg better known." He retained this loyalty for his college throughout his life. The highest offices of his church were granted to him. He became president of the house of clerical and lay deputies of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, retaining the office for five sessions. For a time he was dean of the Washington Cathedral, and became chaplain of the United States Senate. He served in this capacity until his death in 1942, becoming the personal friend and spiritual counsellor of presidents, and of other leaders in the national government.

In the winter of 1931 an attractive astronomical observatory was erected just north of Koch Hall at a cost of over \$80,000, the funds being provided by Mr. and Mrs. Elgar

Weaver, of Brookville, Ohio.¹ The observatory is a gem of a building, containing many decorative features which give it a most attractive exterior. It houses a ten-inch telescope and much other special equipment.

After construction had been under way for some time a serious delay was occasioned by the discovery of a layer of blue clay under the site. This made necessary the sinking of piles some eighteen feet further than was originally planned, adding \$5,000 to the cost of the building. When completed, it contained a class room, a laboratory, a transit room, a seminar room, and the copper revolving dome for the telescope. During commencement week in June, 1931, the observatory was dedicated, the principal address being delivered by Professor Heber D. Curtis, Director of the Detroit Observatory of the University of Michigan. His theme was, "Astronomy and Modern Thought."

Citizens of Springfield were greatly interested, and there was considerable excitement on the campus, when several outstanding political figures came to Wittenberg on October 16, 1930. On that day the vice-president of the United States, the Honorable V. P. Curtis, spoke at an all-college convocation which was held in the field house. Accompanying him were the two United States Senators from Ohio, Simeon D. Fess and Roscoe M. McCulloch, both of whom spoke briefly. Following the program a number of students had the privilege of meeting the vice-president.

Wittenberg athletics reached a peak during these years with outstanding records in several sports. Walter Eckersall, so well known to all sports followers, gave William Edwards, Wittenberg's football captain, honorable mention on the All-Amer-

¹Mr. and Mrs. Weaver, long-time friends and benefactors of the institution, were later to become the donors of funds for the erection of Wittenberg's long-hoped-for college chapel.

ican football team of 1930. This was the first time a Wittenberg athlete had been given an All-American rating.¹

First of the night football games were introduced at Wittenberg in the fall of 1930 when four games were played after dark. In December of that year the college rejoined the Buckeye Athletic Association from which it had temporarily withdrawn.

An article in the *Torch* reveals the manner in which fencing, a minor sport, came to the fore during this period:

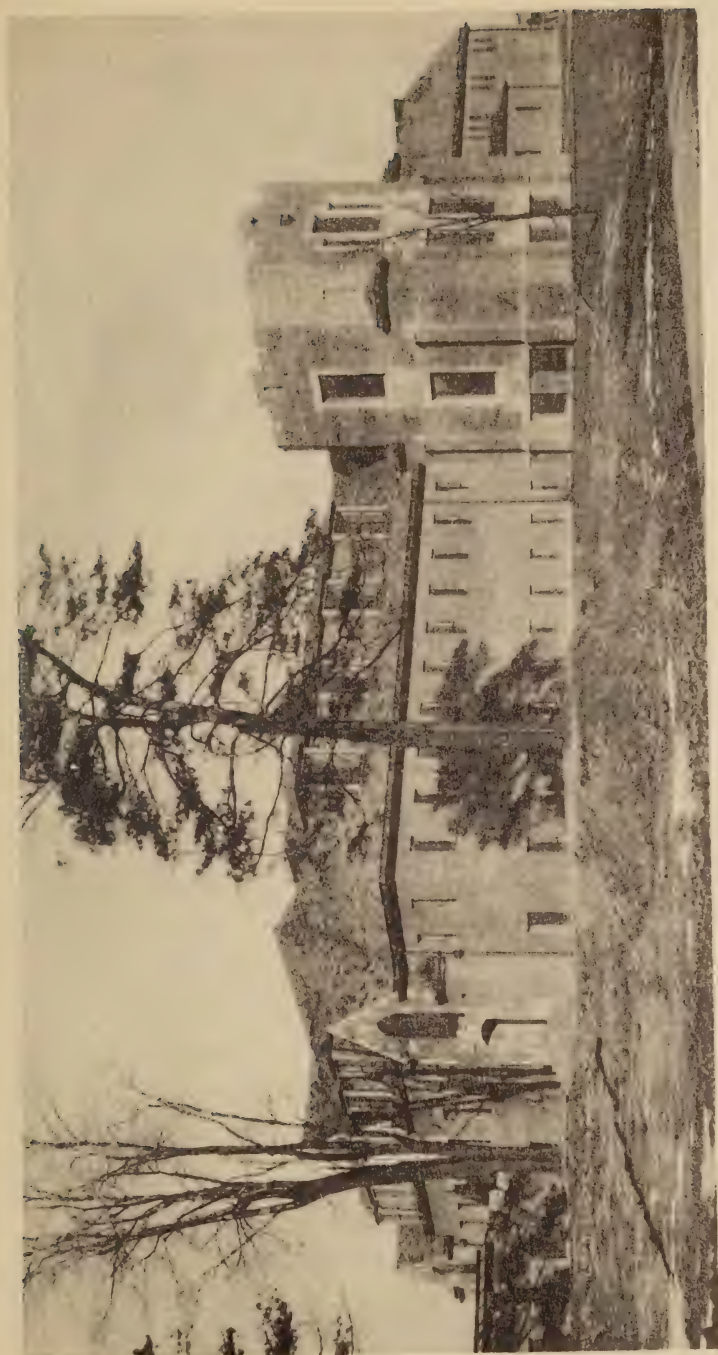
"The six man fencing team that meets Yale, December 15; Columbia, December 16; New York University, December 17; and the University of Pennsylvania, December 18, first had to cross swords with 'old man discouragement' before they won the Ohio intercollegiate championship cup early in 1930, and before they received a tolerant attitude from the public.

"When they gave exhibitions between halves at basketball games here, they were showered with one cent pieces tossed from the safety of high seats in the steel stands in the Health and Physical Education Building. Even a thrifty housewife would hesitate to enjoy such a copper shower, but the Wittenbergers didn't show anything but a determination to popularize a sport that calls for quick thinking but no gate receipts. . . . Wittenberg boys who represent their school in the East this season deserve pennies and then some for the work that they are doing."² Fencing was popularized at Wittenberg by a foreign exchange student from Persia. In 1932 a second Ohio College championship was won by Wittenberg in this sport.

This was a time in which "big name" schools were met to an unusual degree. In addition to those faced in fencing,

¹ "Bill" Edwards later became famous as a coach. His teams at Western Reserve University attracted nation-wide attention by a long string of victories over several seasons. From W.R.U. Edwards went to Detroit as coach of the Lions, professional football team, prior to entering the U. S. Navy in World War II.

² The *Torch*, December 4, 1930, p. 2. The team which went East was composed of William Osborne, student coach, Samuel VanWunder, Frank Lindsay, Roscoe Rilling, Charles Balmer, and Victor Criswell.



HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING

Wittenberg tied both Washington and Jefferson, and Ogelthorpe, in football, and defeated Lehigh, Brigham Young, Alabama and Centre in basketball. The basketball team won 18 of 20 games in an exceptionally strong schedule, only one loss being to a college team. The next year Wittenberg's football team was one of the few teams in the nation to finish its schedule undefeated. Evidence of the power of that year's eleven is the fact that 214 points were scored to 51 by the opponents. Colin Lanning was honored with the captaincy of the Associated Press All-Ohio football team for 1931, and Dwight Trubey was awarded the position of tackle on the All-Ohio team.¹

In the spring of 1932 Wittenberg's first varsity swimming team was organized. The completion of the Health and Physical Education building had made it possible to practice in a college pool. Charles Kiester served as student coach of a squad of twelve men.

A new professor in the college in the fall of 1931 was E. T. Bodenberg, Ph. D., who joined the staff as an associate professor of biology. He has been a valuable member of that department, and has remained at Wittenberg, advancing meanwhile to the rank of full professor. The seminary faculty was strengthened in the fall of 1932 by the addition of Professor T. A. Kantonen, Ph. D. He came as acting professor of systematic theology, was made full professor one year later, and has remained with Hamma Divinity School since that date. A graduate student at Harvard and at Boston University where he earned his doctorate, Professor Kantonen is a scholar of the first rank. He succeeded Doctor L. S. Keyser who retired after more than twenty years on the seminary faculty.

An entirely new project was undertaken by the college, beginning in September, 1932. At that time the Wittenberg

¹ In 1940 Wittenberg athletes enjoyed a fifth undefeated season when the football team led by John Kostyo won eight successive victories. In 1938 the tennis team won 8 matches without a single defeat.

Research Institute was opened. It offered expert engineering and analytical service in connection with developmental, manufacturing, and sales problems. Its services included the analysis of raw materials entering manufacture, and of finished products including coal, paint, minerals, lime, fats, oils, soap, wood, paper, textiles, foods, water, fertilizers, and other commercial products; also foundry products such as steel, cast iron, semi-steel, brass, bronze, and special alloys. Under a plan of laboratory control, special service was made available on matters pertaining to the control of the plant output. The service was designed to give assurance of raw materials of uniform character and of properly maintaining plant operation in the interests of low production costs and a salable character of output.

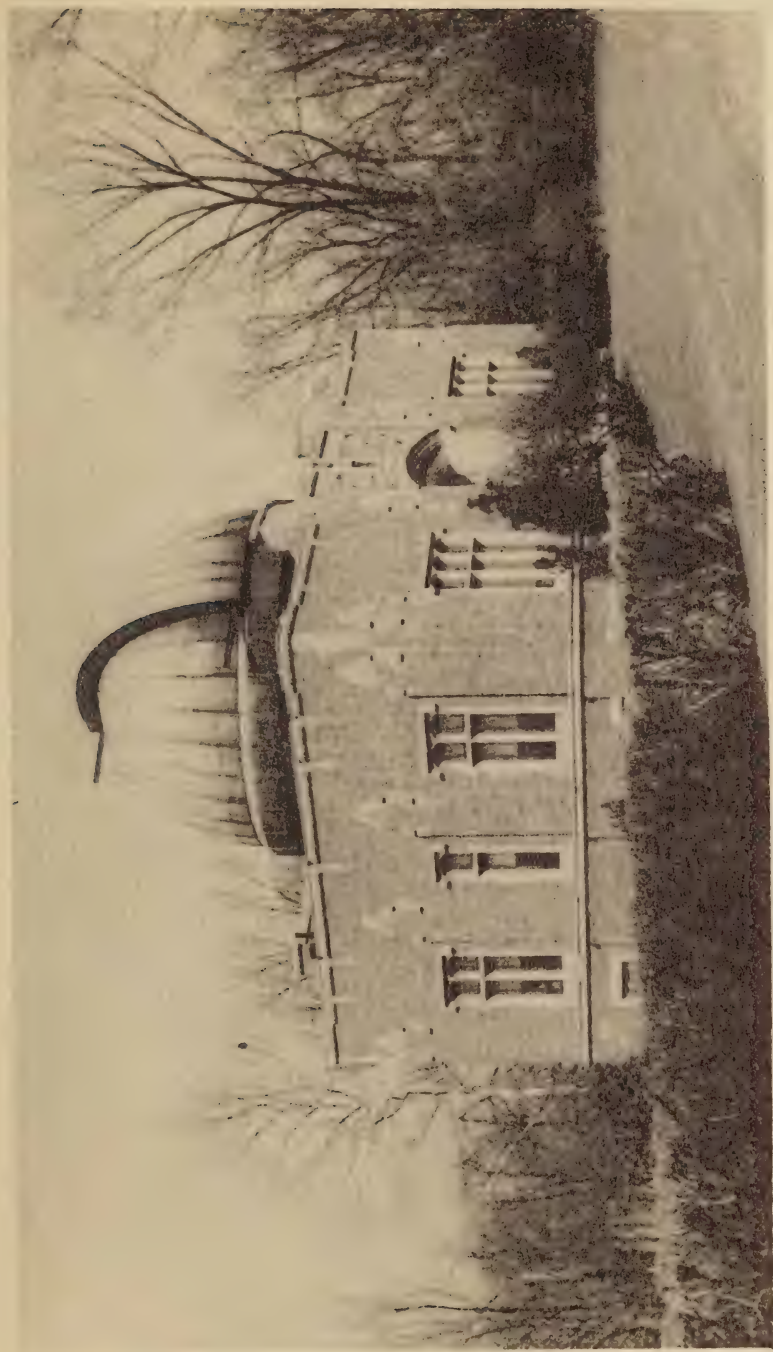
Doctor Henry L. Coles, Ch. E., Ph. D., metallurgist, inventor, industrial chemist, and instructor was appointed director. Doctors Barker, Linn and Morgan of the chemistry department were associated with him in the work of the institute, and the facilities of the laboratories in Koch Hall were made available for this work. The institute gave much promise of becoming a valuable asset to the college and of offering splendid service to manufacturers, many of whom availed themselves of the opportunity. In this way Wittenberg increased its value to manufacturing interests in the city of Springfield and throughout southern Ohio. Depression years were difficult ones in which to start such a venture, however, as the college was already burdened with debt from the erection of new buildings and its income was declining. When Doctor Coles, after one year at Wittenberg, accepted another position, the institute was continued under the guidance of members of the chemistry department and before long the project was suspended. It is hoped that it may be revived at a future date.

The advent of national fraternities at Wittenberg has been described on earlier pages. Phi Kappa Psi, established at Wittenberg in 1866, was the first, followed one year later by Beta Theta Pi. In 1883 Alpha Tau Omega came to the campus and the next year a chapter of Phi Gamma Delta was installed. First national sorority to appear at Wittenberg was Alpha Xi Delta, in 1903. Ten years later Alpha Delta Pi became the second such group. As the number of students increased rapidly, other Greek-letter social groups appeared. In 1924 two more national sororities were added by the installation of chapters of Chi Omega and of Sigma Phi Beta. Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity was chartered in 1926, Kappa Delta sorority in 1927, and Gamma Phi Beta sorority in 1929. Other groups in the order of their establishment at Wittenberg are Phi Mu Delta fraternity, 1930; Beta Phi Alpha sorority, 1931; The American Association of Common Clubs, 1931; Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, 1932; and Theta Kappa Nu, fraternity, 1932.¹ While the college was expanding its physical plant, many of these social groups were improving their housing facilities. Several homes were extensively remodelled and enlarged, others located in new quarters. Three groups, namely Phi Kappa Psi, Beta Theta Pi, and Alpha Tau Omega, erected new, commodious and attractive chapter houses. As a result of such activity the fraternities and sororities at Wittenberg were keeping pace with the marked advance of the college which was making headway along so many lines.

In 1930 the Liberal Arts College Movement was organized, and President Tulloss was elected to its executive committee. In 1933 he was advanced to the presidency of this group which enrolled two hundred fifty colleges. With its president

¹ This is not a complete list of all such groups ever to appear at Wittenberg, inasmuch as others existed briefly but did not remain. During World War II, Greek-letter groups at Wittenberg, like those at most schools, faced serious problems, due to the small college enrollment of men. With possibly one exception, the Wittenberg groups have maintained their existence and are now rapidly rebuilding their membership. First sorority to organize on the Wittenberg campus was the local which existed for 30 years prior to its affiliation with the national sorority, Beta Phi Alpha, in 1931.

thus honored by a large group of sister colleges, with a tremendous growth in enrollment, with five new buildings upon its campus and a greatly enlarged endowment, with growing prestige in various academic pursuits, and with student spirit at its best, Wittenberg could well take pride in its achievements. In every way it was enjoying the greatest prosperity and the best name in its entire history to that date.



WEAVER OBSERVATORY

Chapter XIX

Rounding Out a Century

The last dozen years of Wittenberg's first century were characterized by a decreasing enrollment and a reduction in the size of the faculty, consequent upon the economic depression of 1929-39, and World War II, which brought all colleges to a critical state. Wittenberg entered this period with a burdensome debt contracted by the erection of various necessary buildings, each one of which was provided for only in part by gifts. The Board had been willing to see the debt increase because of several factors. For one thing, the buildings were needed. Furthermore, their erection secured gifts for the college which would not have been forthcoming otherwise. But the principal factor in the minds of both the administration and the Board was the impending educational campaign in the United Lutheran Church. The national body had approved a financial drive to strengthen the many Lutheran colleges and seminaries of the United Lutheran Church in America. By means of a coordinated effort, whereby each institution was to conduct its own drive at the same time as the others, a strengthening of the church's institutions of higher education would be assured. A Wittenberg campaign for \$1,200,000.00 had been officially approved by all of the supporting synods. Relying upon the funds thus apparently assured, the Wittenberg Board was willing to approve what promised to be merely a temporary indebtedness, in order that needed buildings might be provided. However, the unfavorable condition of the country in 1930 led the church to defer its effort and, eventually, as the depression continued, to postpone the venture indefi-

nitely. Not until 1941 did the long-deferred campaign become possible, and the financial standing of the institution again begin to improve.

In 1932-33 enrollment began to fall. By February, 1933, a new low of 712 was reached. A year later the figure had fallen to 694. Reduced income from tuition receipts was an added blow to the college. In order more nearly to balance the budget, expenditures were reduced drastically. Upon their own recommendation, the loyal faculty received a ten per cent reduction in salary beginning in the fall of 1932. As the economic belt drew tighter this was increased to a twenty per cent reduction and finally to forty percent. It became necessary to reduce the number of instructors. With fewer students such a reduction of the staff was quite feasible. But the task of dismissing professors who had served faithfully was a heart-breaking one. Because of the necessity of such action, Wittenberg lost several teachers of proven ability.

In spite of such changes the school continued to make progress along other lines. Under the leadership of Professor Paul Brees and his associate, G. Vernon Kelley, the department of public speaking was blazing its way to fame. Wittenberg's record in oratory and debate is most outstanding. As an example, in the eight year period, from 1925 to 1932, representatives of the college won six first places and two second places in the annual Ohio Women's Intercollegiate Oratorical Contest. Both men's and women's debate teams were frequently winners or runners-up in the state contests. During the month of April, 1927, Professor Brees accompanied two of his gifted pupils, Mr. Lester Crowl and Mr. Joseph Sittler, on a trans-continental debating trip. They debated against a number of colleges and universities in such manner as to bring credit to Wittenberg. A European trip was then planned for the year 1930, but financial stringencies caused the substitution

of a less pretentious arrangement. As a fitting reward for their activity in forensics, Coach Brees picked the two team captains, Earl Morris and Vaughn Gayman, to make an extended debate tour to Havana, Cuba. On this trip a number of southern colleges and universities were met, including Birmingham-Southern, Duke and Berea College.

Men of Wittenberg won many honors in oratory, with the highest point of achievement being reached on April 28, 1934, when William McClain, Springfield Negro and student at Wittenberg, won the national intercollegiate oratorical contest. It was held at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. McClain had previously won the right to represent Ohio colleges by taking first place in the Ohio Old Line Oratorical Contest held at Muskingum College. His oration, entitled "Our Scroll of Destiny," dealt with the problems of race prejudice. This was the first time that a Wittenberger had won first place in a national oratorical contest.¹ It was the first time, too, that a victory in this field of endeavor went to a member of the Negro race.

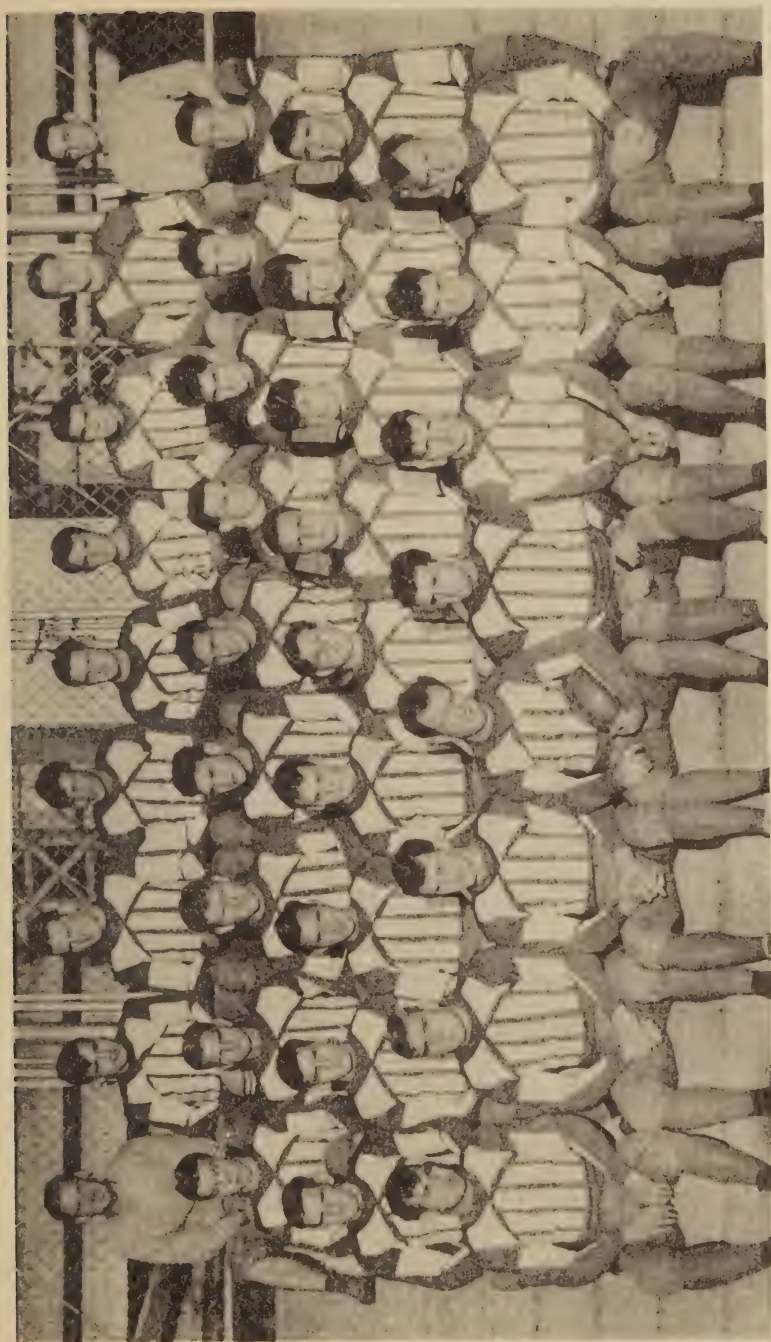
A valuable tie with the past history of the college was broken on Monday, September 11, 1933, when Doctor B. F. Prince, Wittenberg's "Grand Old Man," passed away at the advanced age of ninety-three. All activities at the college and seminary were suspended on the day of his funeral. As the body lay in state, hundreds of students formed a continuous line that passed his coffin for an hour. President Tulloss spoke at the funeral services, saying in part: "The life of Doctor Prince has been intimately interwoven with the history of Wittenberg College for more than three-quarters of a century. During a large portion of that time he occupied a unique position in the academic and business organization of the institution. For more than fifty years he was chairman of the pru-

¹ Professor G. Vernon Kelley of the Wittenberg speech department won this honor while a student at Fairmont College.

dential committee. In this position and as vice-president of the college he has cooperated in the conduct of the institution during the terms of office of five presidents of the college.¹ To his wise and cautious administration of the finances of the institution at various critical points in her history, it may almost be said that the existence of the college is due."

Doctor Prince was acclaimed at the time of his death as the oldest professor, in point of years and of activity, in the United States. He had chosen the profession best adapted to his talents and disposition, for he loved teaching. In fact he attributed his long life to his associations with young people across the years. Throughout a period of sixty-two years of service on the faculty he was known and respected by Wittenberg students. He had come to the college when only one building had been erected, and he lived to see the present group of thirteen buildings. His offices were many. For fifty-five consecutive years he was chairman of the important Prudential Committee, as has been mentioned. He was head of the history and political science department, and treasurer of the alumni endowment association. For thirty-one years he was a director of the Ohio Archaeological Society. Professor Prince is the author of a two volume history of Clark County, Ohio, and a manuscript history of Wittenberg College. He was a former president of the Clark County Historical Society. He served as president of the Men's Library Club of Springfield; for many years he was president of the Springfield Build-and Loan Association. His family has continued the Wittenberg tradition. Three daughters were educated at the college, one of them, Miss Grace Prince, occupying the position of librarian for half a century. A granddaughter, Miss Ellen Easton was elected Alma Mater Queen in 1931.

¹ He accepted, in 1866, a position as instructor and remained in constant connection with the college until his death, having thus served under every president excepting only Doctor Ezra Keller, the founder.



1930 FOOTBALL TEAM — CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS



1938 BASKETBALL TEAM — CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

Another Springfield alumnus of the college rose to prominence in 1933 when Attorney Charles B. Zimmerman was appointed by Governor George White to the Ohio Supreme Court. He has served continually since that time, being twice reelected to the position. After graduating from Wittenberg in 1911 he studied law at Harvard. During the first world war he served as a major in the A.E.F. Later he was Clark County representative in the state legislature, candidate for congress and for attorney general of Ohio, and finally for justice of the supreme court.

Early in 1934 the Wittenberg School of Music, which had been developing into a school of superior merit, was endorsed for membership in the National Association of Schools of Music. Only five other schools in Ohio enjoyed this distinction, including the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. The a capella choir made one of its longest tours at this time, covering two weeks time and visiting thirteen of the larger cities in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. Large crowds enjoyed their concerts.¹ The college orchestra received a similar response when it took a week's trip, playing in nine Ohio cities.

Because the first youth conference at Wittenberg had been such a success, a second one was held on the campus, April 26-28, 1935, under the general chairmanship of Professor Paul H. Heisey. Various addresses and group discussions reflected the theme of the gathering: "My Christ, My Life, My Church." Approximately five hundred delegates and visitors attended the sessions. Principal speakers included college presidents, church editors, missionaries, and outstanding ministers. Seeing the value of such a gathering to the youth of the church, the four synods on the Wittenberg territory

¹ Another year the choir was to go to New York and other Eastern cities, where high acclaim was to be received from music critics. Included on this tour was a concert in Radio City Music Hall and a nation-wide broadcast over the N.B.C.

voted in their next annual meeting to approve of a plan to hold a third gathering in the spring of 1937.¹

When Wittenberg reached its seventy-fifth birthday, in 1920, a diamond jubilee had attracted many alumni who returned to the campus and participated in the elaborate program which had been arranged. When, in 1935, the college had reached the age of four score years and ten, the attainment of the ninetieth year was observed by means of the most outstanding celebration in the history of the school. A splendid pageant, written by Professor Georgia MacPherson, dramatized the high moments of Wittenberg's history. Most of the dialogue is historically accurate, based upon available material. There are six acts with thirty-three scenes in the pageant. Two hundred and seventy students participated, with both choir and orchestra supporting the cast. One of the remarkable features of the presentation was the use of five stages, making possible frequent flash scenes. George Izenour, a talented student, directed the pageant, planned the lighting, and supervised stage sets and scenery.² The pageant was first presented in the field house as part of a Founder's Day program on April 1, 1935, and because of its popularity and worth it was repeated on several other occasions. This dramatic presentation, calling for the active participation of so many people, was a splendid token of student spirit, and of wholesome student-faculty relationships. The participants, as well as the thousands who witnessed the pageant, were led to a deep appreciation of the faith, toil, sacrifice and zeal of those who had devoted their lives to the establishment and success of Wittenberg.

In connection with the commemoration of the ninetieth anniversary, Professor Robert H. Hiller composed the words and music of a new Wittenberg hymn. Doctor Hiller was one

¹ This was later postponed until the spring of 1938. Under the efficient chairmanship of Dean B. H. Pershing, the Third Youth Conference rendered a notable service. In addition to members of the faculty and staff, twenty-seven church leaders and pastors were present on the campus to deliver addresses or to lead the various discussion groups.

² Mr. Izenour's talents were appreciated by the producers in Hollywood who called him to the West Coast. Later the Rockefeller Foundation subsidized him in continuing special studies in stage lighting at Yale University.

of fifteen persons who were honored by alumni luncheons, arranged to recognize the members of the staff who had been employed by the institution for twenty-three or more years. Mr. Harry Kissell, chief speaker at the alumni dinner, held during commencement week, effectively highlighted the achievements of the ninety years and expressed the love for Wittenberg which was alive in the hearts of so many.

At this point in its long life Wittenberg alumni were scattered all over the world. Some of her former students were living abroad as missionaries, as employees of the State Department, or as foreign representatives of American concerns. Others were men of foreign birth who had come to Wittenberg for their education, many on scholarships, and then had returned to their homelands. Through the Institute of International Education, a long list of students from abroad came to the college. In a single decade the following countries were represented on the Wittenberg campus: Argentina, Austria, British Guiana, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, England, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Korea, Macedonia, Norway, Palestine, Panama, Russia, Roumania. Through the Institute, many Wittenbergers have received scholarships to study abroad, being nominated by the faculty on the basis of superior scholarship. The presence of foreign students on the campus has added color and interest to student life. By developing international friendships it has contributed immeasurably to good will and world friendship.¹

About the time of the ninetieth anniversary the proposal to add a fourth year to the seminary curriculum was advanced. Proponents of this plan pointed to its successful application in certain seminaries in America where a fourth year was added

¹ The writer recalls with pleasure some of the programs of the Cosmopolitan club when Wittenberg students heard their friends from abroad present the music of their homeland and saw them dressed in their native garb. He counts it one of the extra benefits of an education at Wittenberg to be able to enumerate personal friends living in several foreign lands.

in the form of an interneship. Inserted between the second and third years of seminary education, it consisted in sending the student out to work under the supervision of a pastor in a regular parish, where the student would receive valuable practical training. It was thought that a year of experience would enable the student to derive more value from his senior year spent in the classroom. The Board spent a considerable amount of time in discussing the proposition. A special committee was appointed which went into the plan in detail. For awhile there was much discussion throughout the church as the idea was presented to the various synods and conferences. Eventually, a number of factors led to the rejection of the plan. Chief among them was the shortage of men for the ministry and the sentiment that the present three year course should be strengthened before a fourth year was added.¹

Two changes occurred in the seminary faculty in 1937, when Doctor W. D. Allbeck was called as acting professor of history of doctrine, liturgics and catechetics, and Doctor E. E. Flack, serving as professor of Old Testament language and literature, was elected professor of New Testament philology and criticism. Doctor Allbeck was a graduate *cum laude* of Susquehanna University, received his bachelor of divinity degree from Hamma Divinity School and had served a church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for eight years. Meanwhile he had studied at the University of Pittsburgh where he earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree. He served as co-author of the third edition of Doctor Neve's "History of the Lutheran Church in America."²

Noticeable improvement of the campus occurred soon after the Tulloss administration began. It had been the custom for

¹ In lieu of the added year of interneship, the seminary has adopted a plan which provides actual parish practice for the seminarians. For a certain period of time each of the students is assigned to a Lutheran Church in Springfield to assist the pastor in such items as Sunday School teaching, Catechism, etc. The pastor counsels with the student and advises him upon his work. In this way the student gains practical experience and is able to present his problems to the professors for further advice.

² In 1946, as a part of Wittenberg's Centennial Celebration, Dr. Allbeck published a history of Hamma Divinity School under the title "THEOLOGY AT WITTENBERG."

years to hire students for the work of keeping the campus in good condition. Large groups of students would gather up the leaves in Autumn, others worked in their spare time to give the campus a pleasing appearance. In Summer, when students were on vacation, grass grew tall and the campus presented an appearance of sad neglect. This condition was changed by an increase in the budget which permitted the hiring of additional men on the maintenance staff of the college. These men, properly equipped and with more experience in such work, have been able to keep the campus well groomed at all times in the year. Mr. H. G. Root, a Springfield citizen, developed a special interest in the college grounds. Due to his generous contribution of time, as well as his gifts of bulbs, plants and trees, many improvements took place. By the time of his death he was responsible for the planting of many trees, the elimination of others, the planting of shrubbery alongside new campus walks, and for the lovely garden west of Recitation Hall. Professional architects and landscape engineers had been consulted in drawing up a master plan for the campus. This plan specifies where anticipated buildings should be located. It marks the most advantageous spots for planting of trees and designates many improvements of a minor nature. Cooperating with this master campus plan the graduating classes, beginning with the class of 1931,* have voted consistently to combine their class gifts to provide the erection of attractive stone features in front of Recitation Hall, at the center of the campus, and in front of Blair Hall. These stone terraces and seats increase the beauty of the college grounds as well as providing places of rest where one may sit down to enjoy the beauty of the surroundings.

All friends of Wittenberg felt keenly their sudden loss when three well known professors passed away in the fall of 1937. On October 18 of that year Jens A. Ness succumbed to a heart attack which terminated his thirty-four years on the faculty. Ten days later death came to Professor Emeritus

Leander S. Keyser. On December 20, Professor T. B. Birch passed away. He had served on the faculty for thirty years. All three men were well-known to generations of students who, in their minds, closely associated these men with Wittenberg. Doctor Ness was a scholar of the first rank. Included among the resolutions passed by the faculty at the time of his death were these two revealing paragraphs:

"We honor him for his unvarying insistence in maintaining the ideals of classical learning, in full accord with the tradition of Wittenberg College.

"We value the privilege of having had as an associate one with his thorough grasp of Indo-Germanic philology. Few men in America have read as widely as he in Sanskrit, Avestan, Greek, Latin (classic and medieval), and Lithuanian as well as in the earliest and latest fields of the Germanic and Romance language groups. His comprehensive knowledge of their several literatures merits recognition in the society of scholars."

Doctor Keyser was known throughout a wide area because of his years of service in the church and seminary, and through the many volumes which he had published. Among conservative theologians he was looked upon as a champion of fundamentalist thought.

The passing of Doctor Birch removed from the faculty a man of talent, whose ability had helped to make the college known and respected in the academic world. He attained international recognition as a scholar with the publication, in 1930, of "*De Sacramento Altaris*," by William of Ockham, in a critical Latin text and in an English translation. To a superior ability as a student and teacher of philosophy, he added a knowledge of abbreviated Latin possessed by only a few men in America. As the result of his achievements, T. B. Birch was one of the few Ohioans to be honored with membership in the Authors' Club of London. He was also a Fellow of the



Fritz Krueger.
Tenor Solist

John Bennett Horn
Baritone

E. Arne Hovdesven
Organist

John Thomas Williams
Director

THE A CAPELLA CHOIR



CHAPEL SCENE

American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, The British Institute of Philosophical Studies, and was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Yet, despite his achievements, Doctor Birch had a quiet and unassuming personality. Students admired him for his friendly interest in their welfare and growth. He was interested in athletics, frequently attending the practice sessions of the varsity teams. Students of his generation will not soon forget the figure of the tall, straight philosopher, walking slowly along the campus paths, or standing on the edge of the football field, whittling on a small piece of wood.

The decease of these three men prophesied the breaking up of the band of exceedingly able men who were brought to Wittenberg by President Heckert. Doctor Tulloss had inherited from his predecessor a small faculty which had to be expanded greatly in size as the student enrollment increased rapidly. But the faculty of 1920, while small in number, was a truly fine group of professors. They possessed sound scholarship and academic attainment, yet retained the common touch of human understanding and sympathetic interest in the lives of their students. Almost without exception they had the triple characteristics of scholar, teacher, and Christian gentleman. Because of them, Wittenberg, though impoverished financially, was wealthy indeed, and "being poor, yet made many rich."

As the years of financial depression slowly gave way to a more prosperous condition throughout the nation, salaries of Wittenberg professors were gradually restored. At the beginning of the second semester of the 1935-36 school year, a five percent increase brought the salary scale to 73.5% of what it was in 1930-31. The next year this was raised to eighty percent. Friends of the institution brought cheer during these years of struggle by remembering Wittenberg with generous gifts. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence L. Catherman of Benton Har-

bor, Michigan were the donors, upon an annuity basis, of property and securities representing a net value of approximately \$70,000, and followed this in a later year by a further gift of \$40,000. At the same time Mr. Charles C. Patterson, of the class of 1884, former principal of Springfield High School, made a gift of \$25,000 and revealed his intention of increasing the amount at a later date. He made this contribution on an annuity basis for the purpose of endowing the chair of Latin. One year later he died, but he had left in his will a bequest of \$25,000 to the college, thus bringing his total gift to \$50,000. Mr. Patterson's will also contained a provision for the setting up of a trust fund, the income of which is used to aid students who are graduates of the Springfield High School and are planning to enter Wittenberg College.

Foundations were being laid at this time for a financial campaign to relieve the critical situation at Wittenberg. In the end it was to become one of the most productive efforts in the history of the school. The campaign having been postponed annually since 1930, a special Board committee was appointed in 1935 to present concrete proposals to the Board at its next meeting. This committee thought that the effort could not be made prior to 1939. Another committee was appointed to bring in a further report one year hence. In June, 1938, they reported that as a result of lengthy sessions, at which every phase of Wittenberg's financial problems and economic needs had been discussed, it was voted to make the following recommendations to the Board:

"That arrangements be made for a campaign at such date between May 1, 1939 and June 1, 1940, as may be deemed best, and that the Board of Directors seek approval for this campaign of the supporting synods at their 1938 meetings.

“That a goal of \$1,200,000 be set for the campaign, it being specifically understood that the first charge upon the proceeds of the campaign, after payment of expenses incidental to the campaign, shall be the payment of the obligations of the institution.”

The Synod of Ohio,¹ the Michigan Synod,² the Indiana Synod,³ and the Kentucky-Tennessee Synod⁴ all gave their approval to these proposals. When the dates agreed upon had arrived, it was deemed expedient to delay the start of the drive a little longer. It was opened in January, 1941, with the intention of devoting two years to the effort. The erection of five new buildings on the college campus, while provided for in part by generous gifts, had left an indebtedness of \$566,000 for the college to carry. It was determined that the church's goal in the campaign should be set at \$600,000, and that all money received from this source should be applied to the debt. There were to be three other major divisions, each with a tentative goal. From large givers a sum of \$250,000 to \$300,000 was to be sought. Alumni were asked to give between \$150,000 and \$200,000. The city of Springfield, exclusive of alumni and Lutheran church contributors, was given a general goal of at least \$100,000. The Board of Directors requested the executive boards of the constituent synods to call special meetings of their Synods in January, 1941, for the purpose of launching the campaign. With this impetus, the effort was begun. When the Synod of Ohio and the Michigan Synod held a joint meeting in Springfield on January 20, 21, 1941, they were cheered by the announcement that Mr. John Sarver of Columbus, Ohio, had promised a gift of \$175,000. He specified that this sum was to be used to support a retirement plan for professors and members of the staff at Wittenberg. Only a few months later, on May 31, 1941, President

¹ Minutes of the Synod of Ohio, 1938, p. 78.

² Minutes of the Michigan Synod, 1938, p. 49.

³ Minutes of the Indiana Synod, 1938, p. 34.

⁴ Minutes of the Kentucky-Tennessee Synod, 1938, pp. 22, 23.

Tulloss was able to report that in the larger gifts division four gifts totaling \$305,000 had been promised, exceeding the goal of this phase of the campaign by five thousand dollars.¹

The Reverend L. P. Speaker, D.D. was in charge of the church division of the campaign. Doctor O. H. Pannkoke who had assisted in the drive in 1920, was again employed as a consultant. The alumni division moved along at a slow but steady pace and became the second group to attain its goal. Included in the gifts from alumni was a contribution of \$50,000 to provide for the erection of an addition to the library.² No definite time was set for the campaign in Clark County. For various reasons this was delayed, awaiting a most propitious time. As the one hundredth year of the college draws near, machinery is being set in motion to conduct the campaign in the area immediately surrounding the school.

The only phase of the campaign which was distinctly unsuccessful at the end of the two years of endeavor was that in the church, where only approximately forty percent of the goal was reached. As the \$600,000 sought from this source was to amortize the heavy debt of the institution, the unfinished task remained to plague the college. At the meeting of the Synod of Ohio in Springfield, during the month of May, 1945, the Synod took action whereby it acknowledged responsibility for securing its share of the deficit in the church campaign, and instituted a plan of annual payments out of the apportionment, whereby its full share of the \$600,000 would be raised within the next ten years. The Kentucky-Tennessee synod took somewhat similar action. With this assurance of a major portion of the funds sought, the liquidation of the

¹ In addition to Mr. Sarver, those presenting large gifts to Wittenberg during this campaign were Mr. and Mrs. Elgar Weaver, Mrs. John C. Lynch, Mrs. N. B. Brophy, and others. The gifts in this division finally reached a total of nearly three quarters of a million dollars.

² The donor was an alumna of Wittenberg, Mrs. Gretchen Hochdoerfer Rogers, of the Class of 1906. Mrs. Hettie Bearce Hochdoerfer, affectionately known as "Madame Hochdoerfer", mother of Mrs. Rogers, for twenty two years (1907-1929) teacher of French at Wittenberg, is still living at the advanced age of 99 years.

entire debt within the next ten years appears to be a strong probability.

While the account of the financial drive has carried the historical narrative up to the year 1945, it is necessary to return a few years in order to complete the story of Wittenberg's first century. As related on earlier pages, a number of attempts were made to move the Wittenberg seminary elsewhere, or to merge it with other seminaries. This idea had been given consideration on numerous occasions by the Board of Directors, but always their decision was that such a plan was not feasible, or that it could not well be done because of legal commitments in connection with financial gifts to Hamma Divinity School. In 1932 the subject of seminary mergers came before the United Lutheran Church in America. Following a consideration of the number of seminaries which the church supported, the overlapping of fields in some instances, and the possibility of securing stronger seminaries through a union of some of them, the national body recommended that a thorough study be made and such mergers encouraged. In this way Hamma Divinity School and the Chicago Lutheran Seminary were scrutinized for the possibilities of a union. Encouraged by the Board of Education of the United Lutheran Church the two seminaries gave thought to this matter. During the school year 1933-34 the Board of Trustees of the Chicago Lutheran Seminary was furnished a copy of all actions of the Wittenberg Board with reference to the question of seminary mergers.¹ On December 27, 1934, at the call of the secretary of the Board of Education of the United Lutheran Church in America, representatives of the two seminaries and of the Board of Education met at Fort Wayne, Indiana for a conference in which all aspects of possible relations between the two institutions were discussed. Actual merger was not favored. Action was taken,

¹In 1934 the Michigan Synod went so far as to vote to withhold support of the two seminaries, after 1935, until such time as a merger of these institutions was effected. One year later this action was rescinded.

however, asking the Board of Education to recommend a synchronized curriculum for the two seminaries, and also recommending to the Board of Education the desirability of making provision for the interchange of professors for lecture purposes.

Throughout the United Lutheran Church so many issues and loyalties were involved that no mergers resulted from the action of the national body. The question as it was related to Hamma Divinity School lay more or less dormant following the action already described. After a few years the movement was revived, some men becoming very active in their efforts toward a union of the two seminaries. In the Ohio Synod the climax came in the synodical convention held in Toledo in May, 1942,¹ when the subject was debated with considerable spirit. It was a dramatic moment when the vote was announced. Delegates learned that by a single vote the motion to merge had been defeated. A favorable ballot would have set in motion the machinery whereby the seminary, which was the chief desire of the founders of Wittenberg, would be severed from the institution.² The vote having been otherwise, a fine display of unity and reconciliation caused the dropping of the matter thereafter. Men felt that the issue had been faced squarely, had been discussed adequately, and that under the guidance of the Holy Spirit a final decision had been made. With the passing of the years some of those who favored the merger have expressed the opinion that they were mistaken in their judgment and are happy that the seminary was retained in Ohio. Furthermore, personal animosities, which contributed to the agitation for removal from Springfield, have abated. Wittenberg celebrates its centennial year with its original character as a literary and theological institution still unimpaired. While the future is difficult to foresee, one may more coura-

¹ In matters pertaining to Wittenberg, action of the Synod of Ohio is of great weight because the membership of this synod, as well as its financial contributions to the institution, exceeds that of the other supporting synods combined.

² The writer refers to geographical and physical factors when speaking of this severing. He is aware that it was proposed that some control of the merged seminary at Chicago would be granted the Wittenberg Board.



MEMBERS OF THE 54TH COLLEGE TRAINING DETACHMENT A. A. F. AT DRILL

geously predict a merger within Ohio than one involving institutions in separate states. Since 1942 there appears to be a growing conviction that there are a sufficient number of Lutherans in Ohio to justify a seminary in their midst, as a source of strength and a guarantee of future growth.

The retirement of L. H. Larimer as Dean of Hamma Divinity School in 1940 terminated an administration which had run for sixteen years. His successor was Doctor E. E. Flack, who had served on the faculty throughout the entire period of Larimer's deanship. He had been secretary of the faculty for a number of years; thus he was fully acquainted with the problems, ideals, and program of the seminary. In 1937 he visited several seminaries in Europe¹ and attended the World Conference on Faith and Order in Edinburg, Scotland. Under Dean Flack's vigorous and consecrated leadership, Hamma Divinity School has gone forward during difficult years. He has been successful in recruiting students for the ministry in the face of many difficulties. The launching of teaching fellowships has proven a blessing to the seminary. In 1943 the first teaching fellows were appointed. The Reverend Stewart Herman, Jr., gave lectures the first half of the first semester. The Reverends H. T. Lehman, Th.D., and Jacob Heikkinen served as fellows throughout the entire year. The former went from Wittenberg, at the close of the year, to the presidency of Waterloo College and Theological Seminary, an institution in which several Lutheran bodies of Canada have united their interests and endeavors.

A well-known pastor and leader in the Lutheran Church came to the Hamma faculty in the fall of 1943 when Doctor Amos J. Traver accepted the call to the chair of practical theology. A successful pastor, he was fitted by experience to teach in this field. His services were recognized in the church at large where he held positions of responsibility. He had

¹ Doctor Flack made addresses at the universities of Berlin, Leipzig, Erlangen, Tuebingen, and Goettingen, as well as at the Augustinian seminary where the original University of Wittenberg was located.

served as Executive Secretary of the Luther League of America. Among Lutheran laity he was known as the editor of *Lutheran Men*. Beyond Lutheran circles his name was familiar because of his regular contributions to various publications which enjoy a wide circulation. His installation took place in connection with the Kessler Lectures on April 11, 1944.

These lectures brought two renowned churchmen to the campus. Doctor Reinhold Niebuhr delivered four lectures on the general theme, "The Relevance of Reformation Doctrine to Life in Modern Preaching." Doctor Robert E. Speer, ecumenical Christian and world missionary, spoke on "Some Perils of the Ministry," and "The World's Great Benefactors." More than two hundred Lutheran clergymen took advantage of the opportunity to hear these lectures, and many were enthusiastic in their statements as to the mental stimulation and spiritual enrichment which they received. The Kessler Lecture Foundation, established at Hamma in 1921 by a generous gift from Mrs. Emma Kessler of Louisville, Kentucky, has proven a rich blessing to students and pastors during the past two decades.

The college faculty was strengthened in 1941 with the addition of Professor Ralston Thompson, himself a gifted artist, to teach courses in art.

With the advent of "Pearl Harbor" and the entry of our nation into World War II, the seminary faculty were called upon to bear the increased burden of an accelerated program. This was done at the behest of a governmental order directed to all theological schools. With the induction of eighteen year old men into the armed forces, the recruiting of men for the ministry was changed almost overnight. Many men who might have entered college, and later enrolled in the seminary, instead were placed in the uniform of their country. Although provisions were presently made for excepting those young men with the ministry in view, the men themselves frequently

failed to make proper arrangements in advance to qualify for exemption, or else preferred to enlist and to postpone their education. In spite of such difficulties Hamma's enrollment has remained high enough to continue the normal work of the school.

World War II brought tremendous changes to the college. Most obvious of the changes was the decline in the number of students. In this way Wittenberg suffered along with all other colleges and universities. As a reduction in the number of students means a reduced income, and the cost of running an institution rises during a time of war, the educational institutions of the nation entered a period of struggle for existence. One month after Pearl Harbor, a series of resolutions which President Tulloss had prepared for presentation to the faculty were adopted. They indicate the extensive way in which Wittenberg prepared to participate in the war effort by every means within its power. While they did not visibly alter the essential life of the college, they affected the school in many ways.

In order to enable students to complete their college work prior to induction, an accelerated program was instituted whereby a student of superior ability might graduate in two years and eight months. This was done by means of an expanded summer session, the admission of new students in June as well as in September and January, and the granting of permission to students with an average grade of B or better to carry a schedule of eighteen hours per semester.

In many ways the curriculum was brought in line with the demands of the new day. Approval was granted for the addition of courses intended to be of value to those who should later enter the armed forces. Various courses were concentrated into a shorter period of time to enable students to complete them sooner. Students proposing to enlist in the Navy under the provisions of the Navy V-5 and V-7 programs were granted the privilege of arranging their schedules in such a

way as most fully accorded with their needs in preparation for naval service.

Wittenberg realized at this early date that a serious shortage of teachers would soon result from the induction into the armed forces of many teachers and prospective teachers, and from the entrance into war work of many others. In order to alleviate this situation the faculty approved the restoration of the two-year teacher-training courses, under the established regulations of the Ohio State Department of Education, and prepared to provide refresher courses and other needed special courses for those who had teaching experience but more recently had not been serving in that field.

Many other items, including student counselling, were presented in this faculty-approved list of resolutions which were aimed to make Wittenberg completely cooperative with the war effort of the nation. Perhaps the most spectacular feature in this cooperation was expressed in the following resolution. "That the President of the College, with the approval of the Board of Directors, be authorized to proffer to the U. S. Government the use of such plant space and instructional facilities as could be given up without impairment of our normal educational program, to be used by the Army, Navy or Marine Corps, or by any other war-time agency of the Government, during the duration of the war." In line with the spirit of this resolution, President Tulloss had already been active in bringing Wittenberg's facilities to the attention of the Army and Navy authorities.¹ An inspection on the part of the Navy resulted in a tentative selection of Wittenberg as a training center. Soon thereafter a survey commission of Army Air Force officers recommended Wittenberg as the site of one of the College Training Detachments of that branch of the service. A

¹ One of the last acts of service on the part of Eli A. Jensen, Business Manager and Treasurer, was a trip to Washington in December 1942, for conferences relating to this project. President Tulloss was as yet unable to travel, consequent upon a serious illness and operation in November.

joint Army-Navy Board finally assigned Wittenberg to the Army Air Forces, and further negotiations brought about the establishment on the Wittenberg campus of the 54th College Training Detachment of 700 men, the eleventh in point of size in the whole territory east of the Mississippi river.

February 28, 1943 the Army Air Force Training School opened at Wittenberg with the arrival of 350 men. On March 30, a second unit of similar size was received. Blair Hall and Carnegie Hall were given over entirely to the government program, to be used for the class room instruction of the cadets. Large use was also made of the Health and Physical Education Building. Duplicating the situation which prevailed for a time during the First World War, Myers Hall became an army barracks as three hundred cadets were housed there. Men invaded Ferncliff Hall for the first time in the history of the college, when that building was utilized for the quartering of troops. Dining Halls were established in Ferncliff Hall and the Phi Kappa Psi House. In addition to these buildings two fraternity houses adjoining the campus, those of Phi Kappa Psi and Alpha Tau Omega were used as cadet dormitories. Air Force cadets arrived at the college each month in groups of 140. As one class graduated another entered, so that a total of approximately 700 were in residence at all times.

These uniformed students were given a cordial welcome by the college which displayed its hospitality in many ways. As an example, the college arranged five vesper services, on alternate Sundays, with a two-fold purpose in view; "to draw the air force cadets into the life of Wittenberg and Springfield, and to serve as a rallying center for the spiritual aspirations of the community. Great crowds filled the field house for these services."¹ Color was added to the campus life by the presence of the cadets. When squads marched from one building

¹ 1943 Minutes of the Synod of Ohio, p. 101.

to another the young men sang lustily, their voices ringing over the college grounds. Hours of drill and parade on the athletic field drew both students and townspeople as spectators. As each class finished its work, special graduation exercises were held in the college chapel, and certificates indicating the work completed were granted by the college. As the graduates marched to the depot to entrain, the cadet band took part in the march, making a thrilling parade for all to see.

Some 2800 men received their training on the campus. Air Force personnel sent to Springfield to direct the school were men of high calibre. This fact, plus the cooperation of the college in every way, produced a school which drew the commendation of Army authorities. In addition to a certificate of merit, Wittenberg received the high praise of A.A.F. authorities. A commanding officer stated to the college Board that the Wittenberg Detachment had been described as among the best three percent of such units throughout the nation.

With regret the college learned that the government had terminated this type of training, and watched the last group of cadets leave the campus at the end of June, 1944. Inquiries were made concerning the possibility of introducing at Wittenberg one of the other kinds of Army or Navy training which were said to be in contemplation. These inquiries have been unproductive up to this time, although surveys have been made. Wittenberg's final contribution to the housing of government personnel consisted in opening Myers Hall for one year to a group of half a hundred young women, mostly of college grade, who were studying Radar at the army air fields near Dayton.

In order to gain even a partial comprehension of the college's contribution to the nation during the war years, many other items must be considered. Space does not permit an adequate description of such activities as the training of several hundred men in the technical phases of the Civilian Pilot

Training Program or the enrollment of a large number of men trained in the regular curriculum under provisions of the Joint Army-Navy-Marine Corps Enlisted Reserve College Program. The Wittenberg Women's League carried on an intensive campaign to sell sufficient war stamps and war bonds among the students to purchase a field ambulance. The newly organized Student Council sponsored a clothing collection for overseas relief under the auspices of the United Nations Rehabilitation and Relief Administration ¹.

Ten percent of the living graduates of Hamma Divinity School, an unusually high number, carried their spiritual ministry into the armed forces where they served as chaplains. Although it is impossible for the college to keep in touch with all of its former students, more than 1500 are known definitely to have seen service in this war, of whom over fifty made the supreme sacrifice. Those young men who are represented by gold stars on Wittenberg's service flag speak more loudly in death than they could in life of the need for strong church colleges. Such colleges develop in the minds of young people who are training to become leaders in all walks of life, and moulders of public opinion, the ideals and moral precepts, so necessary for securing an enduring peace. Education alone is not enough, for there are educated fools. Class-room training must include the cultivation of character whereby the adaptation of knowledge to the highest ends of humanity is guaranteed. Such has been the aim of Wittenberg for one hundred years. Many have been proud to identify themselves with this noble venture. In her ninety-eighth year, Wittenberg was the recipient of a gift of \$150,000 from an anonymous donor who stated that the gift was given in the firm belief that "there is no more permanent investment than money given to a sound and well-established Christian college;" and that there is "no

¹ Among the members of the faculty who entered the armed forces were Doctor William C. Schwarzbek, teacher of psychology since 1936; Doctor John W. Barker of the department of chemistry; and Willis Baughman of the department of health and physical education. Dr. C. A. Clausen was granted leave of absence in order to enter government service.

way in which a gift can better serve both church and country than in the field of Christian higher education."

During Wittenberg's centennial year two of her leaders were chosen for high honors in the field of education and in the church. Dean C. G. Shatzer was elected president of the National Lutheran Educational Conference, a group with which he had been associated for many years. President Tulloss, after being a director of the National Lutheran Council for several years, was elevated to the presidency of that great body at the most important and opportune time in its honorable history. This came as a tribute to his ability as a leader in organization, finance, and in social movements.

At the close of its first century Wittenberg lost, through retirement, two professors who had filled pre-eminent positions for more than forty years, and of whom one further word should be spoken. Professors E. O. Weaver and J. P. Schneider were truly great teachers. Their influence in the lives of countless students has been extraordinary. Their presence added dignity and scholarship to the faculty.

Others, with fewer years of service, may not have received proper attention on preceding pages. Doctor Benjamin Pershing, professor of history in both the college and the seminary, as well as dean of men and dean of students, is a well-trained scholar of many talents. Doctor D. T. Krauss, in addition to his worth as a professor of business administration, has made important contributions in the field of athletic supervision and faculty committees. Mention should also be made of Miss Thelma Dunn in education, Miss Helsel in physical education, Miss Margaret Kantzer in education, teacher placement and publicity, John VanWhy as director of physical education, and A. E. Patmos in economics. Least of all should we neglect to speak of Miss Grace Hannaford, efficient and beloved Registrar from 1923 to the time of her retirement in 1945.

As Wittenberg neared the century mark other men of strength identified themselves with the institution. In 1937 Doctor R. L. Krueger was added to the mathematics department. A marked advance in the religious life of the student body accompanied the appointment of Doctor Robert Remsberg as college pastor and professor of philosophy. An alumnus of the college and seminary, he earned his doctorate at Columbia University before returning to his alma mater in 1940. Because one of the most important positions in the faculty is that of dean of the college, a successor to Dean Shatzer was considered as the genial dean approached the age of retirement. Professor W. C. Nystrom quickly became the foremost candidate to succeed Shatzer, following his arrival at Wittenberg in 1937. He had earned his doctorate in education at the University of Kansas and had gained valuable practical experience in high school and college positions. At Wittenberg he aided materially in the revision of the curriculum when all courses were grouped under the three major divisions of humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. In addition to serving as director of teacher training he was named assistant dean. Upon the retirement of Dean Shatzer, Doctor Nystrom assumed the duties of that office.

In addition to those mentioned elsewhere, the roster of the faculty in the centennial year included Miss Leona Bowman who had efficiently taught home economics since 1930, and Miss Ella Siddall who joined the home economics department in 1936; Mrs. Lida Hays Compton in health and physical education; Doctor Jacques Jean Engerrand, who has been a valuable addition as chairman of the department of romance languages since 1943; the popular professor of voice, John B. Ham, as well as Mrs. Ham, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Williams and Miss Ella Gaver, all of whom are in the music school, and Mr. Fritz Holcker who is director of the band and orchestra as well as instructor in band instruments; Doctor Melvin Laatsch in

the field of political science at Wittenberg since 1942 and Doctor Arthur Lutz who came to teach physics in 1943; Doctor F. C. Paschal, former dean of Vanderbilt University who joined the Wittenberg staff as professor of psychology; Miss Georgia MacPherson who has taught English and French since 1921; Miss Margaret Sparks who came to the business education department in 1943. On leave of absence are Willis Baughman of the Department of health and physical education, and Doctor C. A. Clausen, professor of history.¹

It is the faculty who make a college. All of these professors, through their impact upon students, are determining the value of Wittenberg in the educational field.

The quarter-century of the Tulloss administration has been one of remarkable growth and improvement. The grand total of assets has more than tripled. The annual income and expenditure has increased four-fold. In 1920 the college faculty numbered thirteen. They were assisted by fourteen undergraduate student assistants who taught certain classes while continuing their college work. This system has been altered by the expansion of the faculty which at one time exceeded eighty. Faculty salaries have risen from a maximum of \$1800 to a figure twice as large. Various new departments have been added and old ones expanded. In 1920 there was no department of Business Administration, no School of Music, no department of Home Economics.

Under the presidency of Doctor Tulloss a reorganization of academic life has occurred with the creation of such offices as dean of students, dean of women, director of religious activities, personnel service, alumni secretary, publicity director, and others. The campus has been beautified by means of expert

¹ Other teachers not heretofore mentioned whose service will be gratefully remembered by students of recent years are A. A. Beecher and Silas L. Boyd, teachers of voice and directors of the school of music; W. H. Blough, public relations; William F. Byess, Spanish; Frieda Chapman, education; Mrs. Marian Clausen, history; P. R. Fehlandt, chemistry; E. A. Hovdesven, organ; John S. Irwin, French; C. A. Lawson, biology; Florence Logue, health and physical education; Robert Metcalf, art; Doctor Paul R. Minich, college physician; Helen Reese, French; O. E. Shefelveland, economics; Lucille D. Smith, English; William T. Stobbs, head coach; E. G. Suhr, Latin; Ross P. Thomas, engineering drawing; Ottar Tjallingum, sociology; Clara van de Wall, sociology; Glen S. Weiland, chemistry; Carlos Weiman, business administration; and W. D. West, psychology.

landscape gardening. Walks have been laid to provide footing for commuters from one building to another. The campus has received in this last quarter of a century a greatly enlarged girls' dormitory; a beautiful alumni gateway; newly acquired buildings for the school of music; an enlarged library building; a stadium; Blair Hall for the department of education; Koch Hall, dedicated to chemistry and psychology; a health and physical education building; a seminary refectory; a central heating plant; fraternity and sorority buildings; a remodeled Recitation Hall; and tennis courts for student recreation. The business organization of the institution has been transformed. From a part-time chairman of the prudential committee and a volunteer treasurer, this department has been developed into an efficient organization, including the offices of cashier, business manager, and controller, with their assistants.

Since the adoption of a generous pension plan and a system of retirement, members of the faculty can feel a sense of security not granted to those who taught in former years.¹ With a forward look, the faculty is planning Wittenberg's program in the post-war world, and the addition of new scholars to the teaching ranks is being arranged.²

The first century of Wittenberg's life culminated in the commencement of June, 1945. Before her one hundredth year had dawned, elaborate plans were made for a centennial celebration worthy of the high occasion. The first step was the decision by the Board of Directors to set aside the sum of \$10,000 for financing the centennial activities. It was expected that a considerable portion of this sum would be used for financing a conference of men qualified to speak in a

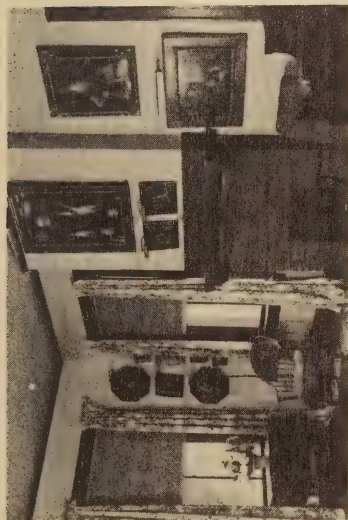
¹ Another realization of a long-cherished dream! As early as 1922, President Tulloss had urged consideration of some such plan. Not until the Centennial year was it possible for the Board to take final definite action. The plan involves participation in the Teachers' Insurance and Annuity Association of America (Carnegie plan), and an 8% contribution on the part of staff-members and institution.

² As this volume goes to press, it is announced that enrollment for the first semester of 1946-47 has reached a total of 1240 students in the regular session, with 280 part-time students in evening classes and extension. To care for the increased enrollment 24 full-time teachers and 11 part-time teachers have been added to the staff.

special field such as that of social studies, to be held on the campus. The meetings were expected to follow the pattern of the symposium on feelings and emotions which had drawn such eminent psychologists to the college in 1927. However, as Wittenberg completed her first century the necessary war-time restrictions on travel, together with governmental prohibition of gatherings such as this, caused the idea to be postponed. No doubt in a few years a splendid array of scholars will be assembled on the Wittenberg campus to speak on problems pertinent to the times.

Dean Charles G. Shatzer consented to serve as general chairman of the centennial activities. Under his careful direction many events were planned. On display throughout commencement week was a large collection of pictures of historical interest, gathered from alumni and friends of the institution. These interesting pictures revealed persons and scenes of an earlier day in the history of the college. A sparkling collection of valuable paintings from the great masters was exhibited in the parlors of Ferncliff Hall. These were loaned for the purpose by Mr. John C. Myers of Ashland, Ohio. Mr. Myers presented the college with a portrait of his father, Mr. Francis E. Myers, who, with his brother, Mr. P. A. Myers, in an earlier day had given the college the funds for extensive remodelling of Myers Hall, and after whom the building had been named. At the same time a portrait of Mr. P. A. Myers was presented as the gift of Mrs. Guy Myers, his daughter-in-law. Portraits of two other great benefactors, Mr. and Mrs. Elgar Weaver, were unveiled also during commencement week-end and placed in the Elgar Weaver Observatory.

On Saturday, June 9, 1945, nearly two hundred students participated in the Alma Mater pageant which was witnessed by a large number of people. That evening a centennial alumni party held in the Field House drew a crowd of 1800 alumni and friends. The Reverend Ross Stover of the class



A portion of the John C. Myers Art Collection on Exhibition
during the Centennial Celebration

of 1912, famed pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, held the attention of the vast audience with his address on "Wittenberg's Mantle of Visions." Miss Florence George of the class of 1933 appeared twice on the program with several numbers. Known in her undergraduate days as Catherine Guthrie, this talented soprano had since gained renown with the Chicago City Opera, had appeared in motion pictures, and had sung on many of the best radio programs. She was awarded an honorary degree in music during commencement activities.

At a special dinner given in his honor, Doctor L. H. Larimer received recognition as retiring dean of the Seminary after twenty-one years in that position. For thirty-seven years he had been a professor at Hamma Divinity School. Verbal tributes were paid to him at the close of the dinner by several men selected for the purpose and he was given a bound volume of letters from many students who had written their appreciation of his spiritual leadership. Another luncheon honored retiring faculty and staff members of the college. The five persons thus recognized had long been associated with Wittenberg. They were living symbols of scholarship, devotion to the highest ideals of the teaching profession, and Christian culture. Doctor E. O. Weaver, Doctor J. P. Schneider, Miss Rose Cadwgan, Miss Grace Hannaford, and Miss Leona Bowman were thus assured of the appreciation in the hearts of Wittenbergers for their invaluable service to the college.

On the eve of commencement the centennial pageant was presented before a capacity crowd in the large field house. This five act pageant re-enacted the hundred years of Wittenberg history. The play had its origin in 1935 in honor of the ninetieth anniversary of the college. Since that time Miss MacPherson, its author, had completed a revision which brought the history up to date. Professor Brees directed the cast of sixty students who participated. Authenticity of costume,

makeup and dialogue are interesting features of this elaborate pageant.

At the point in the pageant narrative where reference is made to Dean Charles G. Shatzer, an intermission was arranged in order to unveil a portrait of the dean. The painting was made under commission of the college. It is a valued addition to the portraits of her leaders which the college owns.

An outstanding alumnus granted an honorary degree at the centennial commencement was Lloyd C. Douglas, as well known as any novelist in the nation today. Doctor Douglas had graduated from Wittenberg College in 1900 and from Hamma Divinity School in 1903. For twelve years he served Lutheran pastorates in North Manchester, Indiana; Lancaster, Ohio; and Washington, D. C. Then followed a few years of youth work at the University of Illinois, after which he returned to the active ministry, serving in the Congregational Church and the United Church of Canada.

His first work appeared in 1920; but it was his fifth book, *Magnificent Obsession*, published in 1929, which brought his fame. Another widely read book was *Forgive Us Our Trespases*, printed in 1932. The following year he turned his full attention to writing and thereafter produced a book almost annually. The reading public eagerly awaited each new production from this gifted author, and bought his greatest work to date, *The Robe*, in such quantities as to make it one of the best sellers in this generation. A number of his books have been purchased by the motion picture industry, thus increasing the circle in which the name of Douglas is well known. The author believes that his forthcoming work, to be entitled *The Great Fisherman*, will be the best book he has written. To that end he is giving it the special attention which one reserves for his masterpiece. Six colleges and universities have bestowed honorary degrees upon him for his literary achievement. Douglas has provided annual awards for students at

Wittenberg who submit the best short stories. In memory of his wife's parents, these are known as the Dr. and Mrs. Francis M. Porch Short Story Contests.

The two highest ranking officers of the United Lutheran Church participated in academic features of the centennial program. Doctor W. H. Greever, secretary of the church, delivered the baccalaureate sermon. In his characteristic manner, he emphasized the value of things spiritual, urging the young people to know the joy of consecration. Doctor Franklin Clark Fry, president of the church, added immeasurably to the commencement service in a brilliant address. His message impressed the students with the need for an alert and intelligent faith. "There is one behind you today . . . one Jesus Christ . . . Never deny to Him . . . your minds and hearts," he appealed. Doctor Fry was granted the honorary degree of doctor of laws.

Mr. Otto K. Jensen, chairman of the Board of Directors on behalf of the Board presented to Doctor Tulloss in recognition of his completion of a quarter of a century of service as president of Wittenberg, a beautifully engraved scroll, reading as follows:

TO PRESIDENT REES EDGAR TULLOSS:

In recognition of distinguished service as head of Wittenberg College for a quarter of a century.

Thorough academic training, devotion to the Church, skill in organization and administration, sound business judgment, the gift of expression—these combined to fit you admirably for the presidency of a church college. By reason of your educational vision, courageous faith, indefatigable industry, and consecrated loyalty, you have been able to make of Wittenberg a strong church college and

of yourself a religious leader of ever-widening influence.

(signed) OTTO K. JENSEN,
Chairman

(signed) E. E. SNYDER,
Secretary

June 11, 1945

Tributes to Wittenberg College were passed by the Ohio Senate and by various organizations and institutions throughout the State. The Springfield Chamber of Commerce, unable to secure during war-time the proper kind of a gift for its tribute, gave the college a certificate for a bronze plaque. When delivered, the plaque will carry an impression of a covered wagon, dated 1845, and an airplane dated 1945. The inscription will read: "This plaque is presented to Wittenberg College in its centennial year in recognition of the college as an integral part of this community, and in appreciation of the great cultural and economic contribution Wittenberg College has afforded our nation and the people of Springfield."

Another local organization, The Greater Springfield and Clark County Association, presented the following:

AN APPRECIATION

Wittenberg College has enriched Springfield for more than one hundred years. While a part of our community, the College has unselfishly been devoted to the pursuit of knowledge, the critical appreciation of achievement and the training of men and women at a really high level. Her students imbued with the ideals of the Christian Church have gone out to serve rather than to accumulate material wealth.

The greater Springfield and Clark County Association feels it a great privilege to join in honoring those men who first conceived the idea of such a College and placed it in our midst. They cared not only for the future of their children but also for grandchildren and great grandchildren yet unborn. They have shown us what unselfish far-sight and planning can do to raise the level of a community, and make civic pride a reality.

Our Association is hoping that the ideals of these founders will continue to be the inspiration of our citizens, and that a much finer community devoted to co-operation for civic improvements of vast importance will be a living memorial to those earnest and devoted men who first dreamed and then made real
—WITTENBERG COLLEGE.

THE GREATER SPRINGFIELD AND CLARK COUNTY ASSOCIATION

J. ROBERT GROFF, *President*
June 1945.

Thus Wittenberg completes her centennial year, having lived through five wars in which our nation has participated. Her strength at the end of a century is in marked contrast to her humble beginning. From a faculty and administration consisting of one, Ezra Keller, she has grown to a college which can count its personnel in the scores. Once a dream in the minds of a few hardy souls, she is now a firmly established institution. Enjoying nation-wide academic recognition, she is able to point with pride to the results of a century of service. The original campus of seventeen acres has expanded to one of fifty-five acres. In 1845 the college borrowed the use of rooms in which to hold classes. In 1945 thirteen impressive buildings adorn her rolling grounds. The initial gifts of a few hundred dollars have grown to the point where total assets are well over five million dollars.

But by any true calculation, her greatest achievements lie beyond human measurement. For Wittenberg has upheld the truth and shed its light into countless lives. Those enlightened individuals, in turn, have spread the radiance of learning and the light of Christ into the affairs of Church and state, business and politics, human endeavors both large and small, and into throbbing hearts all over the world.

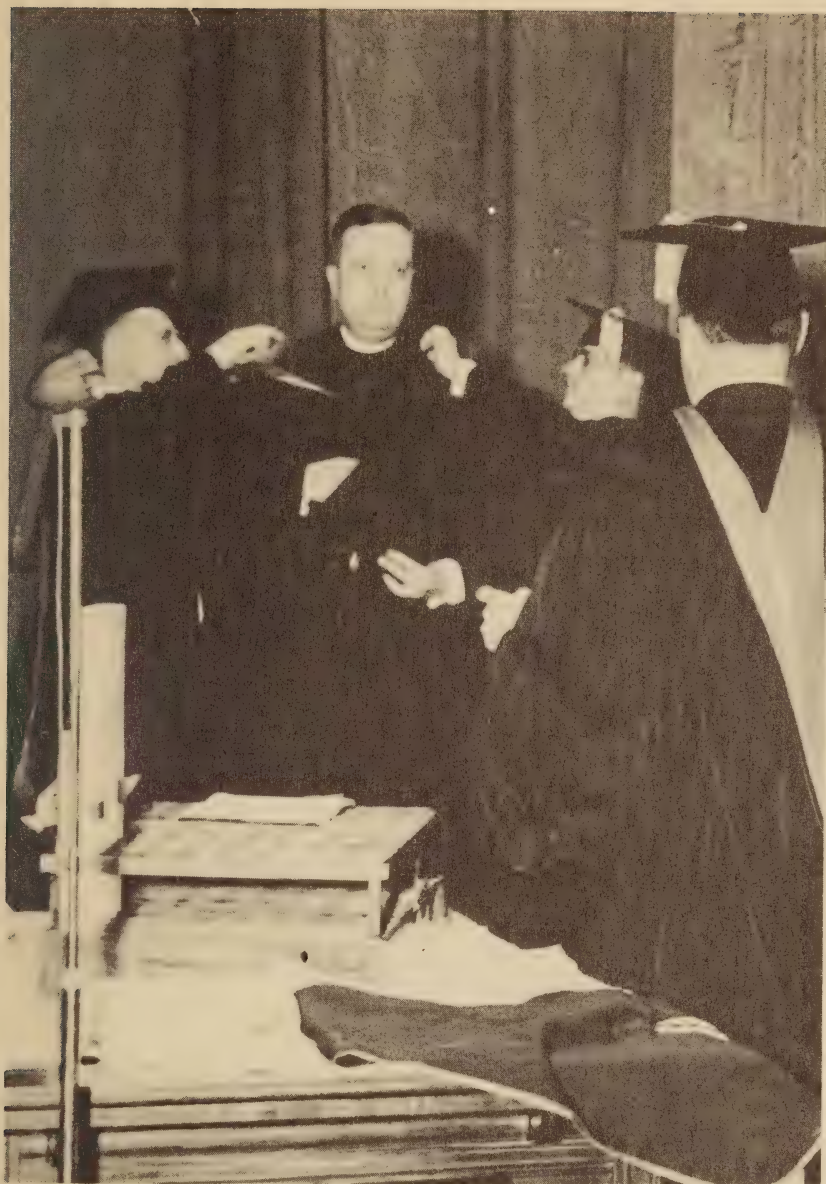
God be praised for strong men,
Who our college founded,
Who in faith and zeal abounded;
God be praised for true men,
Who as decades lengthened,
This our school securely strengthened.
Wittenberg! Wittenberg!
May we still inherit
Something of their spirit.

God be praised for teachers,
High ideals preserving,
Faithfully their students serving.
Of our Alma Mater
They themselves are parts now,
Kept secure within our hearts now.
Year by year, for us here,
Values true discerning,
They the torch kept burning.

God of these, our fathers,
Jesus' name confessing,
Pray we now Thy gracious blessing.
Purify our purpose,
Bless our high endeavor,
In Thy love preserve forever
Wittenberg! Wittenberg!
May she ever merit
Thy abiding spirit.

Amen.¹

¹From the tribute to the founders in the hymn composed by President Rees
Edgar Tulloss.



President Franklin Clark Fry receives the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws at Wittenberg's Centennial Commencement.

From left to right: Dean E. E. Flack, Dr. Franklin C. Fry, Dr. G. Vernon Kelley, President Rees Edgar Tulloss.

Chapter XX

Adiaphora

It has been impossible for the poor words of this history to portray adequately the spirit of the founders of Wittenberg, or of their successors in positions of responsibility at the college and seminary. Try as one may to describe their sacrifice, their devotion, their consecration, their ceaseless efforts, one must realize that, in the flesh, their lives have already spoken more eloquently than words could ever do. The writer has been moved nearly to tears at times as he held in his hand the written evidence of what men endured for the sake of Wittenberg. Never again will he be able to look lightly upon this institution. He will always think of how it came into being, and was sustained across its early years, by self-denying, self-sacrificing men of God. They gave their lives to the planting and strengthening of this school that it might strengthen the church in this great area of our beloved land. It can readily be understood why a man should say: "I love Wittenberg!"

Not only was Wittenberg founded in a glorious display of sacrifice and devotion, but it has imbued others with that spirit. It has produced a harvest of sons and daughters, now numbering some nine thousand, bringing benefit to the world in all the pursuits of life. Its list of prominent alumni is most impressive. Foreign exchange students coming to the campus in Springfield, while Wittenbergers studied abroad, have fostered and encouraged international good will. But its greatest contributions have been those intangible forces emanating from Wittenberg to strengthen the church and the nation.

One hundred years of educating youth, a century of character building, a century devoted to the ideal that Christ must be central in education; who can estimate the worth of this effort?

Wittenberg's first century presents a panorama of lights and shadows. There have been saddening disappointments and glorious achievements. Days of discouragement have alternated with seasons of joyful confidence. In its history are revealed at times those weaknesses of which human nature is capable. But exhibited also is the power of Christ marvellously to transform the lives of men.

On many an occasion the obstacles in its path have seemed insurmountable. They were heart-breaking, looming up suddenly before the toil-weary servants of God who so completely gave themselves to the struggle. After human endurance seemed to have been tested to its limit, it was necessary to call for still further persistency in meeting new trials. Men with the love of God in their hearts, in beautiful devotion to a high ideal, poured their very life blood into this institution. We may well ponder why.

They sacrificed for Wittenberg because they loved their Church and their country.

They knew what would make the nation which they loved truly great. In this day when patriotism is at its peak because of the effects of total war, we shall do well to consider their well-founded beliefs. They were convinced that it is not ore, nor timber, nor natural resources of any kind, nor industry nor commerce, but only people who make a nation truly great. They knew that a greater, nobler America could rise only as we develop human resources. People determine the great social trends that advance a nation toward justice and liberty or turn it back toward paganism and brutality.

The founders of this institution were aware of the power of education in the development of human resources. They knew that greater in power than any physical force, even an atomic bomb, is the power of an idea, and of education which fosters thinking. The world is still trembling under the impact of Hitler's education for destruction. He built his horrid plan of conquest and oppression upon a program of education, including the smallest children. He employed class-room methods to indoctrinate a people with militarism, with a theory of a master race, to the final extermination of almost all lofty values to which free people cling. He denied youth the right of free thought. By misuse of education, Hitler has demonstrated anew its power. To fail to utilize this great power for creative good is to commit the greatest folly into which an individual or a nation can fall.

Recent years have proven not only the power of education, but the need for that type of education which builds character, spiritual values, and the love of truth into the thinking processes of individuals. Here then is where the Christian college stands, at the very focal point of greatest need, where the teaching method, and that which is worthy of being taught, meet.

Here is where Lutheranism has always stood. Need anyone be reminded that the Lutheran faith was born in a university, proclaimed by a Christian professor; spread by means of teaching methods, foremost among which is the use of the catechism; carried to America by schoolmasters; developed here by congregations which erected school houses before building houses of worship? The very genius of Lutheran social reform is to be found in the dependence upon educated Christians, serving as leaders in the community, to guide aright the trends of society. By means of Christian statesmen, Christian judges, Christian businessmen, each spreading his ideals

within the sphere of his influence, the precepts and ideals of Christianity are to dominate and saturate society. Saved souls are to bring about the salvation of the nation.

Wittenberg's tasks, therefore, were never greater than now at the start of its second century, when a world emerges from the chaos of war to build a new and better social order. Yet no one can survey what Wittenberg has done in the past one hundred years, without gaining confidence in its future. Its trials of tomorrow may be many, its struggles great. But men will rise up to share their financial blessings, to serve as loyal teachers, to provide capable leadership. As long as Wittenberg remains devoted to the cause of Christ, the mighty hand of God, having led her to this exalted moment, will guide her to larger usefulness in the kingdom of our Lord.



CHARLES B. ZIMMERMAN



LLOYD C. DOUGLAS



Z. BARNEY PHILLIPS



ERNEST FREMONT TITTLE

*The Wittenberg Faculty In The
Centennial Year.*

Dr. W. D. Albeck	Dr. Raymond Krueger
Dr. W. C. Beaver	Dr. Melvin H. Laatsch
Dr. P. F. Bloomhardt	Dr. L. H. Larimer
Dr. E. T. Bodenberg	Dr. Arthur Lutz
Miss Leona Bowman	Miss Georgia MacPherson
Prof. Paul R. Brees	Dr. J. W. Morgan
Miss Rose Cadwgan	Dr. Wendell C. Nystrom
Mrs. Lida Compton	Dr. F. C. Paschal
Mrs. Rena Coppess	Prof. Edward A. Patmos
Miss Thelma Dunn	Dr. B. H. Pershing
Dr. Jacques Engerrand	Dr. Robert G. Remsberg
Dr. E. E. Flack	Dr. J. Philip Schneider
Miss Ella Gaver	Dr. C. G. Shatzer
Mrs. Erna Ham	Miss Ella M. Siddall
Prof. John B. Ham	Miss Margaret Sparks
Miss Ruth Helsel	Prof. Ralston Thompson
Prof. Fritz Holcker	Dr. Amos John Traver
Miss Ruth Immell	Pres. R. E. Tulloss
Dr. T. A. Kantonen	Prof. John B. Van Why
Miss Margaret Kantzer	Dr. G. P. Voigt
Dr. G. Vernon Kelley	Mrs. John T. Williams
Dr. D. T. Krauss	Prof. John T. Williams

WITTENBERG ON THE MISSIONARY FRONTIER

Wittenberg from its founding has been missionary-minded. It has heard the world call of the Gospel. It has brought that call year after year to its own sons and daughters and many have heeded that call to dedicate their lives to foreign service in heathen lands.

Here is a list of names deserving to be entitled "*Wittenberg's Honor Roll.*"

WITTENBERGERS WHO HAVE HEARD THE CALL OF THE FOREIGN FIELD

India

Baer, Miss Emma
Baer, Dr. Mary
Becker, Rev. A. O.
Becker, Mrs. A. O.
Cunningham, Rev. Ray L.
Dickey, Rev. H. E.
Dickey, Mrs. H. E.
Dolbeer, Rev. M. L.
Finefrock, Rev. J. C.
Harris, Dr. E. C.
Harrod, Miss Anna
Hayner, Rev. Claire
Kinsinger, Rev. Samuel
Lane, Rev. Marion
McCauley, Mrs. Elizabeth S.
Neudoerffer, Miss Theodora
Swavelly, Mrs. Izie Weygandt
Thomas, Dr. Edwin M.
Thomas, Mrs. Alpha Fisher
Uhl, Dr. L. L.
Welty, Miss Florence
Zigler, Dr. Virgil
Zigler, Mrs. Jean Mumma

Africa

Anderson, Mrs. Margaret P.
Brenaman, Rev. Albert
Brenaman, Mrs. Albert
Buschman, Rev. C. E.

Dysinger, Miss Mabel
Homrighausen, Rev. Ronald
Hubler, Rev. Elias
Leonard, Rev. Grover
Leonard, Rev. Homer
Leonard, Mrs. Thelma L.
Mynchenberg, Dr. George
Mynchenberg, Mrs.
Officer, Rev. Morris
Pohlman, Mrs. A. Shaffer
Simon, Rev. Jonas
Simon, Mrs. Leanna Turkle

China

Anspach, Rev. Paul P.
Dornblaser, Irene
Fraser, Miss Ruth L.
Galloway, Miss Pearl M.
Hammaker, Bishop W., D.D.
Hammaker, Mrs. Minnie W.
Moler, Miss Maude
Munson, Mrs. Clara D.
Rugh, Mr. Arthur
Wiant, Rev. Bliss M.

Japan

Akard, Miss Martha
Alsdorf, Rev. Howard
Bergner, Miss Selma
Gray, Rev. Louis L.
Hannaford, Rev. Howard

Heins, Rev. Fred
Imadsu, Prof. Kentsuchi
Iwanaga, Rev. Noriyasu
Knudten, Rev. Arthur
Knudten, Mrs. Ruth Crum

South America

Armbruster, Rev. John
Armbruster, Mrs. Margaret S.
Bowen, Rev. Aubrey R.
Villaverde, Rev. Jonas
Rugh, Rev. Meade A.
Rugh, Mrs. Meade A.
White, Rev. Ralph J.

Puerto Rico

Ortiz, Rev. Alfred
Pettit, Rev. John A.
Reddish, Rev. B. V.
Reichert, Sister Rachel

Virgin Islands

Johnson, Rev. Dana H.

Persia

Funk, Dr. J. A.

Panama

Fisher, Mrs. Esther R.

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